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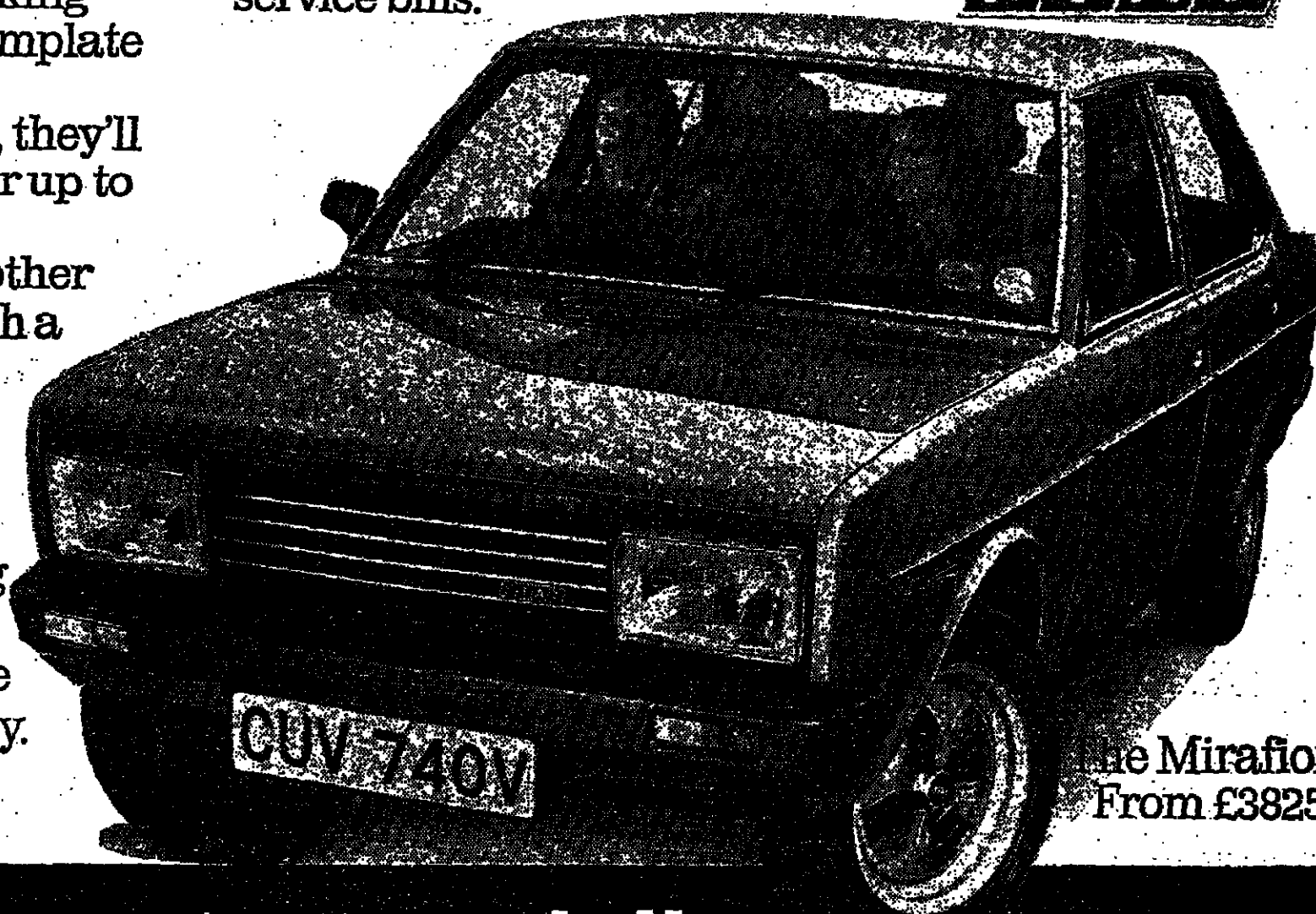
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HOME NEWS

Inquest witness says he saw police officers club and kick James Kelly shortly before death

From David Nicholson-Lord Liverpool

A witness at the inquest on James Kelly, the Liverpool man who died last year in police custody, said yesterday that he saw Mr Kelly punched, kicked and clubbed by police officers half an hour before his death.

Mr Francis Keegan, who said he watched Mr Kelly being arrested by police officers from a block of flats, said he had seen no signs of aggressive behaviour from Mr Kelly. He had not shouted at the police men or struck them, Mr Keegan said.

Mr Keegan, a labourer, of Woolfitt, Huyton, which overlooks the waste ground where Mr Kelly was arrested, said he was in the bedroom of his thirteenth floor flat at about midnight on June 20 last when he heard "the sound of a man singing who appeared to be drunk".

When he saw it was only a drunk he went back to bed, but returned to the open window, when he heard a police car engine revving. The car drove on to the waste ground.

He said Mr Kelly was near bushes on the waste ground and one of the policemen held out his arm in a friendly manner to coax him towards the car, saying: "Come on, Blue".

When they got Mr Kelly near the car one of the policemen put his arm over his throat as if to stop him being violent. The officers forced Mr Kelly against the far side of the car. "I could not see properly what was going on", Mr Keegan added.

Suddenly Mr Kelly went down after a sharp leg movement by one of the policemen and rolled over further out from the car, he continued. "I could see both officers were punching the man with their fists while he was lying on the ground".

One of the policemen went to the boot of the police car. "When he came back I could see him clubbing the man as though he was hitting him with something, but I could not make out whether he had anything in his hand or not", Mr Keegan added.

There was a sound like two blocks of wood being knocked together, Mr Kelly was grunting and was hunched up as though trying to avoid the blows. "The police officers were kicking him and beating him".

After Mr Kelly was "manoeuvred" into the back of the car by the officers, Mr Keegan said he had to answer the door of his flat to a neighbour. When he returned to the window Mr Kelly was outside the car again and the policeman gave him another "going over".

This time, however, it was "not so bad". The officers were moving Mr Kelly around with their feet. He appeared to be unconscious and was not making any noise.

A police van arrived and Mr Kelly was put inside it. The van drove off in several directions.

In reply to Mr George Carman, QC, for the Police Federation and four officers, Mr Keegan said he did not see Mr Kelly bang the Panda car with his fists or about that he would fight the officers or

strike them. Mr Carman said there would be evidence that an officer had suffered a broken tooth.

Mr Carman identified Constable Evans as the man who first went over to Mr Kelly and Constable Browning as the other officer. He offered to bring PC Evans into court for identification but Mr Keegan said he would not be able to recognize him.

Earlier during submissions at the start of the hearing, a request by Mr Gilbert Gray, QC, for the family of Mr Kelly, for the release of a scientist's report on Mr Kelly as well as statements made by the police officers involved, was rejected by counsel for the Police Federation and Mr Kenneth Oxford, the Chief Constable of Merseyside.

Mr Carman, for the four officers, said he was not prepared to release copies of their statements but there was no question of concealment because they were prepared to answer questions on their evidence.

Mr Ronald Lloyd, the coroner, said that arrangements were in hand for the jury to visit at night the waste ground where Mr Kelly was arrested.

Later, Mr Martin Quinn, an unemployed labourer, who had been with Mr Kelly and his companions at the Oak Tree public house on the night Mr Kelly died, said there had been a jovial atmosphere at the Oak Tree, and "no aggro". He saw a bottle of whisky on Mr Kelly.

Mr Quinn said it must have been "near enough to 11.45

pm" when he last saw Mr Kelly, who had been in quite a happy mood and "quite capable of getting himself home".

Mr Carman said that there would be evidence that Mr Kelly was seen flat on his back on the waste ground and that when the police were called he was in a crawling position.

He got up and attacked the Panda car by "banging violently on it like a drunken man enraged by the sight of a police car".

Mr Quinn said it was a very different picture from that of the quiet and friendly man he had left outside the Oak Tree.

In a statement read out by the coroner, Mrs Kathleen Stride, a housewife of Huyton, said she had spent part of the evening of Mr Kelly's death at the Oak Tree, and had seen no trouble from the corner where Mr Kelly was sitting with his friends or outside the public house afterwards.

At one stage the coroner warned members of the public among whom were leaders of the Jimmy Kelly Action Committee, of contempt proceedings. That came after Mr Carman complained of ironic laughter during his cross-examination of Mr Quinn on the latter's contact with the police.

Mr Lloyd said he had the powers to impose fines or commit to prison for contempt. He added: "It is my intention that this inquiry should be conducted with dignity and decorum and the degree of respect that is due to the deceased's person".

Peer backs call for sugar cuts

By Our Agriculture Correspondent

Support for substantial cuts in British sugar output came yesterday from a former agriculture minister. Lord Cledwyn of Pembrokeshire said that plans by the European Commission were "generally sound".

Lord Cledwyn, as Mr Cledwyn Hughes, was Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in the Wilson Government in 1968. The EEC Commission plan to cut British sugar output by almost a third is opposed by Mr Peter Walker, the present minister.

Lord Cledwyn supported the plan in a pamphlet written by him and Sir Bernard Braine, Conservative MP for Essex, South East and published by the Open Seas Forum.

The pamphlet defends the continued preferential access to Britain of more than a million tons a year of cane sugar from developing countries.

Mr Richard Body, Conservative MP for Holland with Boston and chairman of the forum, said yesterday that cane growers in Africa and the West Indies were suffering because the EEC was dumping its surplus beet sugar on world markets at low prices subsidized by European taxpayers.

He believed that EEC production of beet was excessive while output of cane in developing countries needed to be safeguarded.

Singer (Open Seas Forum, 177 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1).

Protest over changes in home help policy

By Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent

Thousands of the poorest elderly and disabled people will be forced to pay for their home helps under a government policy change being implemented this month. But they will still be able to get cash help if they employ private domestic services instead of home helps provided by local councils.

Disability organizations and local authority associations are protesting strongly at the change. Mr Alfred Morris, Labour MP for Wythenshawe and minister with special responsibility for the disabled in the last government, forecast last night that it would mean many more severely disabled people going into institutions, at greater cost to the public, because they could not afford the change.

The change affects people receiving supplementary benefits who need home helps because they cannot manage alone. At present, most receive help free, but those whose local councils charge a flat rate for home helps receive a weekly addition to their benefits to cover half or three-quarters of the cost.

The new Social Security Bill, due to receive Royal Assent in May and to take effect in November, proposes new regulations to stop extra supplementary benefit to pay for local

authority home helps, but not for private domestic services. The change, however, is already being implemented in a policy decision by the Supplementary Benefits Commission to stop more people claiming help before the Bill takes effect.

A number of local authorities were planning to introduce flat rate charges from April 1 to raise extra money without raising high charges on supplementary benefit claimants.

Under the existing system, if every local authority in England and Wales had introduced such a charge they could collectively gain an extra £10m a year to offset cuts according to estimates by Mr Brian Roycroft, secretary of the Association of Directors of Social Services.

But Mrs Lynda Chalker, Under-Secretary of State for Health and Social Security, said in a parliamentary written answer yesterday to Mr Morris that the Government wanted to avoid "illusory public expenditure savings" where local authorities gained revenue at the expense of central government expenditure through the supplementary benefits scheme. The commission had therefore decided to stop paying any further additions to weekly benefits for home help services from the end of February. People already receiving them would continue to do so "at least until November".

Mrs Chalker estimated that the cost to local authorities of providing the supplementary benefit subsidy for home helps would be about £140,000 a year, based on the present number of recipients of 18,000.

Mrs Thatcher urged to halt 'cruel policy'

By Our Social Services Correspondent

The Prime Minister was urged last night to reconsider her "callous, unjust and cruel policy" towards the unemployed by an MP of the Budget appeal by Youthaid, the youth unemployment charity.

Cutting unemployment benefits would "deepen the poverty of the jobless and increase bitterness and social conflict, the organization said.

"It is suggested that you will describe this as a 'work incentive Budget'." Miss Clare Short, director of Youthaid, said in her letter to Mrs Thatcher.

"This really does appear to be a very cruel joke when at the same time Government policies make it inevitable that we will experience a large rise in unemployment."

The Government was planning services on the basis of an expected rise in unemployment to nearly two million by the end of 1981, Miss Short said. Mrs Thatcher therefore knew that individuals would become unemployed through no fault of their own, yet "you intend purposely and consciously to increase their poverty."

Proposals to end the earnings-related supplement, which was paid to only one sixth of the unemployed and could never exceed 85 per cent of the previous year's wages, would in no way increase work incentives. But they would increase the poverty and bitterness of people thrown out of their jobs after having worked and paid their national insurance contributions for many years.

Headmaster charged

The headmaster of Sidcup Hill Primary School, London, appeared in court yesterday charged with indecently assaulting two girls aged 10 and 11. Roy Lucas Remrose, aged 51, of Longlands Road, Sidcup was remanded on bail by Bexley magistrates.

Dutch pork imports for Britain

By Hugh Clayton

Imports of Dutch pork to Britain will be allowed for the first time next month, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food said yesterday.

British Government veterinary inspectors have given the Dutch pig industry a clean bill of health at a time of extreme political sensitivity in the EEC about barriers in the food trade.

Ministry veterinary inspectors said yesterday that it was now safe to allow imports of Dutch pork because there had been no swine fever or foot-and-mouth disease in the Netherlands for many years.

Dutch farmers have increased their share of the British bacon trade in recent years and are now keen to gain a foothold in the pork market.

Most of the pork that they send to Britain will go to tinned meat factories and the economic impact of Dutch sales is expected to be small. The political significance of Dutch imports will be considerable.

Britain has been careful throughout long negotiations with Dutch authorities to abide scrupulously by EEC rules. The ministry does not want to prejudice its case against the French ban on imports of British lamb.

The Government is also anxious to defend Britain's rules for milk, which ensure that milk can be imported except at prohibitive prices. The ministry has received a letter from the European Commission asking the British Government to justify within 30 days the rules that keep imported milk out.

British law requires milk sold here to be packed in a dairy approved by a local authority in this country. That law, which is opposed by continental dairies, makes milk imports uneconomic.

The British Government will invoke Article 36 of the Treaty of Rome in its defence of the milk rules. That allows countries to impose national controls where no Community rule operates. There is no such rule for the harmonization of milk health regulations.

Manx customs pact stands

The Isle of Man takeover of its customs service next Tuesday will bring no noticeable change, the Manx Government made clear yesterday. The agreement keeping Manx and British customs duties in line still stands.

But traders will no longer send value-added tax to Britain, and VAT variations on non-exportable local services will be

Musical jewel in Manchester needs £1.5m

From John Charters Manchester

An appeal for £1.5m needed to develop parts of Chesham's School of Music was launched yesterday and was given an immediate incentive by the announcement of a grant of £250,000 from Greater Manchester County Council and of a "generous" donation from the Prince of Wales. The total has reached £400,000, although the sum given by the Prince was not disclosed.

Chesham, founded in 1653 in a priests' college beside what is now Manchester Cathedral with money left in the will of Humphrey Chesham, functioned as a bluecoats orphan school linked with the cathedral choir until 1951.

It became an independent grammar school until 1955, when a far-sighted decision was made by the governors and fee-funders (trustees) to exploit its musical traditions and turn it into a school catering exclusively for children with exceptional musical gifts.

Over the past 10 years up to

Charge for blood processing proposed

The Government is considering charging private hospitals for the processing and handling of blood, Sir George Young, Under-Secretary of State for Social Services, told the standing committee on the Health Services Bill yesterday.

But the idea was immediately attacked by Mr Albert Alfred Dubs, Labour MP for Wandsworth, Battersea, South. He said it was undesirable and an example of how private practice could not coexist with the National Health Service.

The Press Association reported earlier yesterday that the Government was considering making private patients in health service hospitals pay for the blood they were given.

But Sir George told the committee later that there could be no question of charging private patients in NHS or private hospitals for blood.

The DHSS was "Looking at the feasibility of charging private hospitals for the processing and handling of blood."

"There is no question of blood being denied to those who are ill and need it," he said. "Indeed, some blood donors might become private patients, and it would be quite wrong either to deny them blood, or to charge them."

£4m silver gang well prepared for hijacked haul

By Stewart Tandler

The bullion raiders who escaped with nearly £4m in silver on Monday were better organized than some of their predecessors. In a similar raid some years ago the raiders came unprepared for the weight of their haul. It was so awkward to manhandle that when the police arrived they found many ingots left by the roadside.

For the average ingot is not designed for handy transportation. Normally it weighs 1,000 troy ounces apiece and measures 12 to 13in long by 5in deep and 3in across. Each carries the mark of the melder and assayer, plus a quality mark and the individual sign or "chop" of a company.

The London Silver Market, the London Metal Exchange and representatives of the international market handle silver bullion. It is impossible to calculate the volume, or value, of such traffic through their hands at any one time.

The only published clue is the weekly figure for silver in stock in the London Metal Exchange's official warehouses. At the end of last week the figure was 15 million troy ounces, worth about £155m.

There are no figures for gold holdings.

How much bullion is in transit at any one time is also difficult to gauge. Within the City of London both cash and metal

are constantly being moved throughout the day. The Bank of England has its own security unit and cooperates with police forces in areas through which consignments travel.

Each police force provides its own guard for the duration of the consignments' transportation through its area, and City police officers stay with the load all the way.

Most commercial bullion loads are handled by one specialist security company, which yesterday refused to make any comment on Monday's robbery or its own methods. But the company is known to use heavily armed vans.

In the past few years all manner of technology has been harnessed by the security industry to repulse the growing number of attacks. Armour and radio contact are among the minimum techniques used by firms like Securicor, which handle £40,000m in cash each year.

Swift, surprise attacks have become the main tactic of the robber gangs who have found it increasingly difficult to attack static sites equipped with complex defences. Their main chance of success arises when money is being unloaded or loaded, or while it is in transit.

At Barking not only was there no armoured lorry, but it must have been simple to unhook

the containers on a couple of its axles and disappear among traffic going to the docks.

Police officers are usually notified to the scene of such a robbery, but they are usually too late to prevent the plan.

The silver could not be sold, but this is a special equipment. However, once the silver gang is in the market, it is easy to sell back to the market.

It depends on the raiders can afford a year ago silver was a third of its current value. The market has declined.



The steam yacht Gondola, built in 1859, on Coniston Water yesterday after being resold by the National Trust at a cost of £10,000.

Exhibition seeks to promote greater safety in the home

Six thousand people are killed by accidents at home each year, 800,000 suffer serious injury, and 700 die in fires; with those statistics the Design Council yesterday set out to show that when people are at home they are anything but safe.

The council was launching an exhibition at the Design Centre, Haymarket, London, to encourage people to take safety and security at home seriously. Fires cost the insurance industry £30m a year, and burglaries in 1978 netted £63m in property.

With forethought, a little expenditure, and tougher legislation, the figures could be sharply cut, the council said.

Accidents in the home claim as many lives as road crashes, and six times more than fatal accidents at work, where the Health and Safety at Work Act operates.

Poor product design is responsible for many accidents, and architects often make burglary easier, for example, by designing house entrances for privacy, making it easier for

burglars to work unobserved. The council points to the absence of regulations, present in other countries, insisting on safety glass in doors; 1,500 children aged five to nine are hurt as a result each year.

Twenty children a year die in falls from "pivot" windows, architects still specify "plank-style" banisters that children can fall through, and fiddlers without "non-slip" feet, often lead to accidents.

There are 500,000 fires at home a year, many caused by children playing with matches, frayed wiring on electrical appliances, chip pans and cigarettes.

The killer is usually smoke. A simple smoke detector can be bought for £11 to £15, although the council is having to wait for a British-made version to go into production, and small fire extinguishers can save life and property.

The council has published a book, *Safety and Security in the Home*, at £3.75, to go with the exhibition, detailing the measures to be taken and the equipment available.

Carpet dealers' hopes swept from under them

By Geraldine Norman

Sale Room Correspondent

The London carpet dealers' hopes of securing a valuable antique rug for a song were dashed when it sold for £19,000 at Phillips yesterday. The rug, a carpet with regular geometric motifs on a brick red field (3.27 by 2.55 metres) had been estimated by Phillips at £2,000-£3,000; unfortunately for those in the trade who knew that it was worth more than this a very similar carpet came up in a PB 84 auction in New York last Wednesday and sold for \$30,000 (£13,600).

The auctioneers were thus alerted and increased their reserve on the piece. In the event most of London's carpet trade were in evidence palpating with excitement and a few others from overseas. The carpet was bought by one of Phillips' staff bidding on behalf of a German private collector. Phillips carpet expert commented: "If he had been in the room and they had seen who was bidding, I expect the trade would have run him up."

By this he meant that they would have gone on bidding against him to secure that he made an expensive purchase.

The sale of furniture and carpets included a set of Regency mahogany dining chairs at £10,500 (estimate £5,000-

£5,000) and a set of 111 mahogany library chairs, priced at £25,000 (estimate £10,000-£15,000). Both sets were rather curiously in the South American rather than the English style.

In both London and lands Christie's has exceptional difficulty pictures over the past few years. The top price paid for a picture was £484,021 at the Museum, Laren, on 14 per cent of this total unsold lots.

The picture was bought by a collector. The picture was bought by a collector. The picture was bought by a collector.

The picture was bought by a collector. The picture was bought by a collector. The picture was bought by a collector.

The picture was bought by a collector. The picture was bought by a collector. The picture was bought by a collector.

Rescuers find bodies of two Grampian climbers

Two young, experienced climbers were found dead by rescuers yesterday after a birthday tragedy in the Grampian mountains.

Miss Lynn Brown and Mr Neil McCullum started their climb in the mountains above Braemar last Thursday, and were due back on Sunday, Miss Brown's 24th birthday. When they failed to return, rescuers were alerted, and their bodies, still roped together were found in a corrie on the slopes of Lochanass. They had fallen almost 300ft.

Miss Lynn Brown, aged 23, of Granton Place, Fraserburgh, Grampian, appeared to have been killed in the fall. His companion, of St Andrew's Road, Langward, Fife, had died of

exposure after struggling into her survival bag.

The couple were friends from their days at Aberdeen University. Neil was president of the climbing club.

Lynn's father, Mr Jack Brown, said: "We do not know what happened to Lynn and Neil. They were experienced climbers. Lynn had been on training courses, and was a

part-time instructor."

Mr Brown's only son, Grant, died 10 years ago in a motor cycle accident. "Grant's death was a great blow to me," Mr Brown said. "I have to start life again."

About 30 people and a helicopter were in the search. The bodies were discovered just before

the search. The bodies were discovered just before

the search. The bodies were discovered just before

the search. The bodies were discovered just before

WHAT'S YOUR TRUE WORTH?

A quiz for people with a will

Check the values that are important to you in this list—financial, human, and long term, you may well be worth more than you think.

1) What is the current market value of your home? (A recent survey by a famous building society showed that house prices in Britain had risen by 420% in the past ten years—and in the South East by more than that. Look at prices in your local paper).

2) What of your other assets. Furniture, household goods, car?

3) Savings, shares and the like?

4) And now the difficult question. How do you value the goodwill attached to yourself and your family name? Would you like that to be remembered and respected for generations ahead? Tick if your answer is "yes".

5) Have you considered how you might achieve this? Would you be interested in constructive ideas to ensure it? Tick if "yes".

6) Do you care about the increasingly difficult plight of elderly people, and would you like to ensure that something practical is done about it in your name? Tick if "yes".

Your "worth" can continue to put your caring into action for many years ahead, with a legacy or gift to help the Aged. We have several proven plans that enable you to endow work for old people, to benefit them and yourself from your property, and to continue to mark your family name with a particular scheme.

Write and tell us whether you would like information on legacy tax-saving, property benefit or linking your goodwill with a particular Centre.

Please write to: Help the Aged, Room T4L, 32 Dover Street, London W1A 2AP.

Bans on lorries will cost £75m this year

By Our Transport Correspondent

Bans on lorries for reasons will cost £75m this year, all of which must be added to the £100m cost of the Freight Association said yesterday.

About 400 such ban operations of which, the association says, the most is the "Windsor" which benefits some of the expense of it is still subject of a the Court of Appeal.

Mr Malcolm Banks, Wakefield last night Yorkshire a lorry ban £1.5m a year road £1.5m a year road £1.5m a year road.

That area of the city with the cathedral as its centre is emerging as a cluster of quiet and beauty, in sharp contrast to the hideousness of the recently completed shopping precinct almost alongside.

ME NEWS

Conception group set up by
rents who blame
ug for birth defects

label Ferriman
Services Correspondent
nts who think their child-
rth defects were caused
drug Debendox taken
pregnancy have formed
on committee to try to
a drug taken off the

up met Mr Jack Ashley,
MP for Stoke-on-Trent,
yesterday at the House
mons to set up the com-
The parents intend to
either the 70 people who
written to Mr Ashley
the drug and arrange
ated action.

Valerie Alexander, who
ected chairman of the
tee and whose fifth child,
was born with half an
ssing, said that her chief
was to prevent any
woman or child from
g. committee would have to
r whether to take a test
nter Richardson-Merrell
t, who produced the
a the decision of a
n Orlando, Florida, that
ug had caused a birth
in a child
shley also called for an

emergency meeting of the
Committee on the Safety of
Medicines to overhaul drug surveil-
lance in Britain, which he called
"grossly inadequate".

He said: "There have been
no less than 65,000 adverse re-
actions to drugs over the past
17 years, involving 1,700 drugs.
"Yet only 14 yellow warn-
ings have been issued by the
safety committee, and the com-
mittee has admitted that only
10 per cent of all adverse re-
actions are reported to them."

He thought the total of 65,000
was a "guesstimate" by the De-
partment of Health and Social
Security, which had supplied
him with the figure in a parlia-
mentary answer.

Richardson-Merrell said yes-
terday that the Florida decision
was not a victory for the people
who sued because they were
not awarded any damages, only
\$20,000 for medical expenses.

"The issue is one of such
complexity that it can only be
considered by an authority with
the right expertise. It makes
no sense to have it tried in
public on an emotional basis.
One does not know what other
drugs the mothers took."

ts Council aid increased
line with higher grant

Arts Reporter
Arts Council is to pay
pence 13.5 per cent more
organizations it supports
result of the film
in the Government
or 1980-81 of £70m.

ough that rise in the
sion was described as
he council insists that
percentage should have
nto account the film cur-
year's figure, and the
special grants for Covent

Garden. That brings it down to
just over 13 per cent.

There is also a deficit from
last year of between £6m and
£7m.

The council never gives
details of individual grants, but
they are frequently made on a
case-by-case basis. The council
client receiving proportionately
less one year than another,
either because another is more
deserving, or because private
sponsorship has improved.

Museum of
heraldry
to open at
Tower

By Ian Bradley

Visitors to the Tower of Lon-
don next week will have a new
attraction, a heraldic museum,
which has been established in
the old Waterloo Barracks, near
the White Tower.

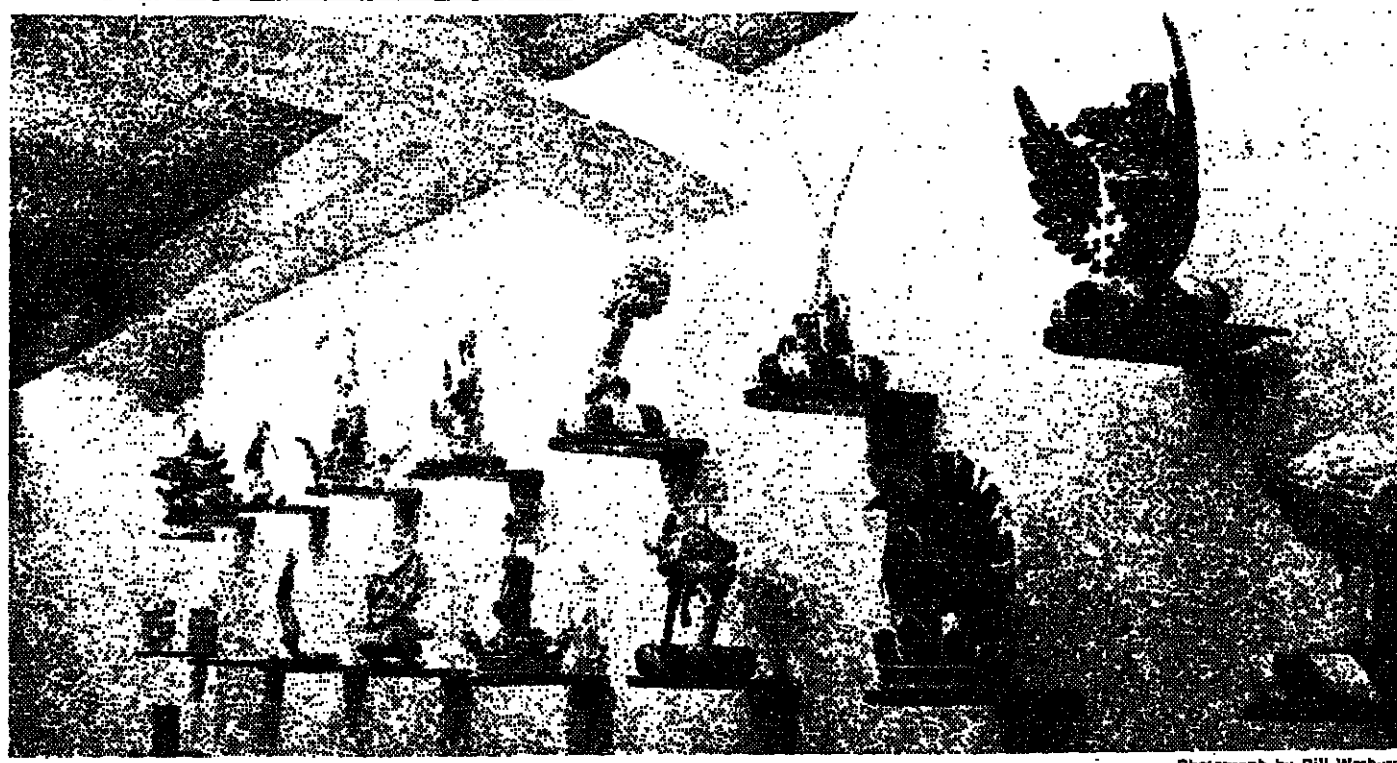
The museum, which is being
opened officially today by the
Duke of Kent, is the idea of Sir
Anthony Wagner, Clarenceux
King of Arms, and until 1978,
Garter King of Arms, head of
the College of Arms.

Sir Anthony said yesterday
that the idea of establishing a
museum of heraldry went back
to 1933 when as a pursuivant
(junior herald) he was search-
ing through the cellars of the
college to find items for an
exhibition to mark its 450th
anniversary.

"Some of the
objects found are at last on
display here today," he said.

Originally the heralds hoped
to establish a museum next to
the college in Queen Victoria
Street but that proved impos-
sible.

The museum traces the de-
velopment of heraldry from its
origins in the twelfth century.
It includes examples of the
tabards which are still worn by



Crests of Knights of the Garter on display in the Herald's Museum of the Tower of London.

heralds on state occasions. 70
shields painted with the arms of
former heralds, and a large
collection of crests of Knights
of the Garter which were for-
merly in St George's Chapel,
Windsor.

Among the manuscripts on
display are a grant of arms to

John Shakespeare, father of the
playwright.

Lieutenant-Colonel Rodney
Dennis, Somerset Herald of
Arms and deputy director of
the museum, wants it to be a
record of the heralds' present
work as well as of their past
achievements.

"Heraldry in England has not
been indissolubly linked with
the nobility as it has in other
European countries", he said.
"It has been far more a way of
symbolizing someone who has
achieved a certain eminence and
position in life. Therefore the

College of Arms is alive and
kicking whereas many of our
colleagues abroad are social
fossils."

The museum will be open
every day from April 1 to Sep-
tember 30. Admission is free to
those who have bought entrance
tickets to the Tower.

Photograph by Bill Warhurst

Essex boats
defy ban
on herring
fishing

From Our Correspondent
Colchester

Angry Essex fishermen yes-
terday defied a government
ban on herring fishing and to-
day they plan to dump their
catch on the Ministry of Agri-
culture's doorstep as a protest.

The fishermen, from West
Mersea, near Colchester, risk
fines of £50,000 and confiscation
of their boats and nets by
landing their catch.

One of the men, Mr John
Jowers, aged 34, said: "If we
cannot fish they might just as
well take away our boats. They
are already taking away our
livelihoods."

The protesters, representing
16 full-time skippers and crews
based on Mersea Island, set out
in secret early yesterday to
catch herring.

Mr Jowers said: "Whatever
the Ministry may say, we know
that stocks are plentiful and
we see no reason why foreign
fish should be imported when
there are fishermen kicking
their heels at home."

The fishermen blame the
Ministry and the Government
for bowing to Common Market
pressure to ban herring fish-
ing. But they claim that com-
munity boats are netting more
fish in a week than the
Islanders catch in a year.

A Ministry of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food spokesman
commented: "We shall not be
helping fishermen if we allow
stocks to dwindle to nothing. If
illegal fishing will only make
matters worse for everyone."

Hull landings: For the first
time for more than two months
trawlers will land fish at Hull
for Easter as a result of the
docks board announcing that
catches will be handled at a
new low rate of £12.63 a tonne.

Ships have been diverted to
other ports because landing
charges at Hull were considered
too high.

Dismissed director awarded £8,940

From Our Correspondent
Shrewsbury

Within two months of
reassuring workers at five
Shropshire factories that their
jobs were safe after a takeover,
a £300,000-a-year managing
director was called to the new
owners' headquarters and told
he was dismissed.

"I thought I had been called
to a safe meeting but they said
I was being dismissed because
our style did not mix well," Mr
Frank Belok, aged 60, of Sutton
Road, Shrewsbury, told an
industrial tribunal which up-

held his unfair dismissal claim
at Shrewsbury yesterday.

Mr Belok, managing director
of Silhouette (Salon) Ltd, and
vice-chairman of its parent
company, Silhouette (London)
Ltd, swimwear manufacturers,
was awarded £8,940, including
a maximum compensation
award of £5,750.

He had been with the com-
pany for 26 years.
"This is one of the 'unaccept-
able faces of capitalism that we
hear of from time to time',
Mr Anthony Gordon, chairman
of the Tribunal, said.

Mr Belok said Silhouette
(London) Ltd was taken over
last August by W. L. Pawson
and Son Ltd, a Leeds-based
firm of clothing manufacturers.

Since his dismissal two of the
Shropshire factories, at Telford
and Market Drayton, had closed.

Mr Michael Baker, counsel
for Mr Belok, said Mr Belok
was contemplating a High Court
claim for damages for wrongful
dismissal but the issue of a writ
had been deferred pending
talks with the new owners.

The company was not repre-
sented at the meeting.

Mr Scargill to give evidence

Mr Arthur Scargill, president
of the Yorkshire area of the
National Union of Mineworkers,
said yesterday that he would
give evidence on picketing to
the employment committee of
the House of Commons on
April 2.

There had been doubt that
Mr Scargill would attend the
hearing because of his objec-
tion to being limited to answer-
ing questions instead of making
a full statement.

But Mr Scargill said yes-
terday: "Following a special meet-

ing of the employment com-
mittee, I was contacted by tele-
phone last night and subse-
quently received a telegram this
morning."

"The terms of the telegram
and telephone conversation
indicate that the committee have
now reverted to their original
invitation which will allow me
an initial oral submission in re-
sponse to the general points
raised in their correspondence."

"This will cover all aspects
of picketing and the Employ-
ment Bill currently before
Parliament."

ell's Angel gets 15 years and
lge gives warning on violence

Our Correspondent
ster

Justice Sheldon passed
at Winchester Crown
yesterday on 24 Hell's
for their part in a clash
chapters in the New
last Easter.

judge said: "If you
yourselves to be above
and able to do as you
are wrong, particu-
you think that the
warfare that has been
d in this case will be
d. The lesson I intend
will be a lesson to that

sentences ranged from
ed terms of imprison-
15 years' jail for one
nicted of attempted

he 11-week trial 24
nts were convicted of
assembly and five
were acquitted. It was
har Windsor Chapter of
gels was attacked after
to join other chap-
an all-England chap-
uns and other weapons
sed and Richard Shar-
32, president of the
r Chapter, was left for
fter he had been shot
times, once in the head,
45 pistol by an unknow

udge said he hoped that
iterness among rival
would not lead to vio-
lence. "If it does it
added: one more demon-
of the shallowness and

unreality of the claim that the
Hell's Angels are a peaceful,
law-abiding and worthwhile
organization.

"Any who may be convicted
of taking part in any violence
that may occur can expect little
if any leniency from any court."
Earlier, the judge said no
one would have any criticism of
the Hell's Angels if their objects
were to promote motor cycling,
give legitimate help to mem-
bers and support charitable
affairs, as they had sometimes
done.

"If your organization or any
of its branches or chapters have
acquired an unsavoury reputa-
tion, it is because you have gone
out of your way to create it by
combat such as that demon-
strated in the course of this
case, which shows little or no
regard for ordinary civilized
behaviour or for others beside
yourselves."

Kenneth Littlefield, aged 25,
vice-president of the Wessex
Chapter, who was said to have
shouted "shoot him", had been
convicted by the jury of attempt-
ing to murder Mr Sharman, and
riotous assembly.

Sentencing Mr Littlefield, of
Wimbledon Close, Camberley,
Surrey, to 15 years' imprison-
ment on the attempted murder
charge, and 10 years, to run
concurrently on the riot charge,
Mr Justice Sheldon said: "You
are sufficiently intelligent to
understand that riot or gang
warfare of such proportions as
disclosed in this case, particu-
larly when firearms are used,

will not be tolerated in a
civilized society."

The 23 convicted of riotous
assembly and their sentences were:
Paul McLean, aged 25, of Orchard
Street, Rainham, Kent (five years'
imprisonment); David Haycock,
aged 30, of Cadbury Heath, Bristol,
and Peter Lake, aged 21, of Cam-
berley, Surrey (five years); Gerald
Edmund, aged 28, of no fixed
address, Paul Hatch, aged 26, of
Warburton Road, Southampton,
Peter Hickey, aged 29, of Baker
Street, Reading, and John
Howarth, aged 23, of Ringwood
Road, Ash, Surrey (all four
years); Stephen Gill, aged 28, of
Graveland Park, Wokingham,
Berkshire (3½ years).

Peter Rowson, aged 30, of
Heathlands Rise, Dartford, Kent;
George Asker, aged 28, of Chest-
nut Close, Blackwater, Hampshire;
Stephen Bunney, aged 24, of
Wimpton Lane, Southampton;
Kevin Cannon, aged 23, of Deodar
Close, Caversham, Berkshire;
Harold Beis, aged 24, of Ludlow
Road, Southampton; and Stephen
Waterman, aged 22, of Park Road,
Southampton (three years).

Terry Jerome, aged 28, of Mount
Pleasant, Basingstoke; Christopher
Finnam, aged 26, of Field Road,
Reading (two years); Gerald
Prosser, aged 25, of Peveril Road,
Southampton; Ian Turner, aged
24, of the same address, and
Stephen Tanner, aged 24, of
Hardland Road, Reading (15
months).

James James, aged 23, of Hay-
burn Road, Southampton, and
Stephen Widdingham, aged 22, of
Greenwood Road, Crowthorne,
Berkshire (six months); Peter
Aspin, aged 25, of York Road,
Aldershot (18 months, suspended
for two years); and Graham
Walker, aged 18, of Wincanton
Road, Reading (six months, sus-
pended for two years).

applaint that
t Phillips
ed horse

e said yesterday that
are investigating a com-
that Captain Mark Phil-
licked an unruly horse in
s during a cross country
t Sherston, near Malmes-
Wiltshire, over a fort-
go.

Supt Stanley Ashley
at Chippenham police
arrests that Princess
husband had not been
swayed yet in connexion
complaint from Mrs
yke, aged 58, of Havant
Basing Island, Hamp-

Pyke said yesterday that
made a statement to
police on the day after
aged incident after she
newspaper photographs
id she had been involved
nal welfare for 40 years.

Football ground ban on
boy extended indefinitely

From Our Correspondent
Aldershot

Aldershot Football Club won
its fight yesterday to have
supporter banned from its
ground. When its case against a
boy aged 16 came before Alder-
shot County Court, the boy
agreed to the temporary injunc-
tion against him, entering the
ground which was granted at a
previous hearing, being ex-
tended indefinitely.

Mr Michael Cosway, the club
secretary, agreed not to press
a claim for £300 damages
against the boy, who was said
to have tried four times to beat
the club's ban on his attendance

at home matches. The judge
awarded costs against the boy.
They may amount to £250 if
they include costs incurred at a
previous hearing.

The boy's father said his son
might try to persuade Alder-
shot Football Club to let him
back into the ground in a year
or two. "I have advised him
to let things cool down and then
write a letter of apology and
maybe appear before the club
committee", he said. "He has
learnt his lesson."

The boy was originally
banned after running on to the
pitch and using obscene lan-
guage.

Meter reading aid

Some 300,000 stickers were
issued free yesterday by the
National Gas Consumers Coun-
cil to help people read gas
meters and control the amount
they use.

Eddystone flight

Trinity House, which con-
trols Britain's lighthouses, is
to build a £50,000 helicopter
landing deck at Eddystone
Lighthouse, near Plymouth, to
help maintenance work and the
transfer of supplies.

Science report

Medicine: Alcohol and mortality

r Medical Correspondent
the warnings about the
us effects on health of an
e self-indulgent life style,
e crumb of comfort, the
reluctant to give up their
has been the suggestion
oderate drinking may re-
the risks of heart disease.
research studies have
that people who drink
fewer deaths of coronary
osis than do total abstain-

for the drinkers, that
has been put into gloomy
sive by a big health re-
project in Yugoslavia. A
h group at the Yugoslav
s of Chronic Diseases and
ology enrolled more than
men aged 35 to 62 and

as part of a detailed examination
collected information on their
drinking habits. The men were
kept under observation for the
next seven years. As might have
been expected from earlier stud-
ies, both fatal and non-fatal
attacks of coronary thrombosis
were more frequent in men who
drank alcohol at least once a day.
However, when total deaths
were analysed, the overall mortal-
ity was lowest in the men who
drank least (none). Claimed to be
total abstainers, the reduction in
regular drinkers in deaths from
heart disease was more than
counterbalanced by deaths from
accidents and strokes. No associ-
ation was found between alcohol
consumption and deaths from
cancer (although other studies
have shown links between alcohol

and cancer of the mouth, pharynx,
larynx, and oesophagus).
The high mortality from stroke
among the heavy drinkers seems
to have been due to their raised
blood pressures, which may have
been due to their high consump-
tion of alcohol. Other studies
of alcohol (like most epidemiological
research projects) throws little
light on causation. Alcohol in
moderate amounts may indeed
protect against heart disease; but
so long as drinkers continue to
smoke more than average, have
high blood pressure, and have
more accidents, overall the effect
of drinking seems likely to remain
hazardous to health rather than
a benefit.

Lancet (March 22, 1980, p 613).

Brazil.
Your leading partner on
half the planet.

Hundreds of European, American, and
Japanese companies have discovered the vast
potential of Brazil, the leading market of the
entire Southern Hemisphere.

And the investments that many have made
in this rapidly growing South American giant
are already paying off handsomely.

The list of international companies that have
invested in Brazil includes such prestigious
names as AEG-Telefunken, Bayer, Bosch,
Daimler-Benz, Krupp, Siemens, Volkswagen,
Philips, Verolme, General Motors, Ford, Fiat,
Philco, Brown Boveri, Volvo, Ishikawajima,
Michelin, Pirelli, Mitsubishi, Sharp, Goodyear,
Olivetti, and many others.



There are compelling reasons for this con-
fidence in Brazil: Brazil is the 5th largest country
in the world, 7th largest in population, 8th in the
Western World in Gross National Product, 8th in
industrial production, and one of the leaders in
agriculture and animal husbandry. It has one of
the largest hydro-electric potentials - aggregating
about 209 million kilowatts - plus vast mineral
resources, such as iron ore, uranium, vast amounts
of bauxite, as well as gold, tin, copper, manganese
and tungsten. Moreover, the country's steel, petro-
chemical, automotive, aeronautical and ship-
building industries are highly developed.

Brazil's manufacturing industries are expand-
ing at an accelerating pace, and are becoming
increasingly competitive in international markets.



Its service companies, particularly those engaged
in project engineering and specialized techno-
logies, are quite active internationally, associated
in many cases with organizations of other countries.

A vigorous market, economy, a favorable
business climate, a highly developed infrastruc-
ture, a plentiful supply of skilled and semi-skilled
labor, and vast growth potential stimulated on a
growing scale by a government policy focusing on a
free enterprise combine to make Brazil the great
new frontier for international investors. Discover
for yourself the investment opportunities and
incentives that Brazil has to offer. Ranging from
the import of quality Brazilian manufactured pro-
ducts in every sector to setting up new operations
with Brazilian firms, or profitable capital invest-
ment.

Brazil. Your leading partner on half the planet.

BANCO DO BRASIL



WEST EUROPE

Union Jack burnt by French farmers

From David Wood, Strasbourg, March 25

No scenes in the Westminster precincts during recent years could compare with today's invasion of the grounds of the Palais de l'Europe in Strasbourg by French farmers demonstrating against any impending unfavourable decisions on Community farm prices.

The European Parliament, sitting to consider the commission's farm price proposals for 1980-1981, virtually emptied to watch the hundreds of farmers from all regions burst through the barricades and run up against a formidable phalanx of riot police equipped with protective shields, drawn batons, tear gas rifles, ordinary rifles, and fire extinguishers.

The police were highly disciplined and mobile and no serious clash occurred. But the ferocity of Western Europe suffered.

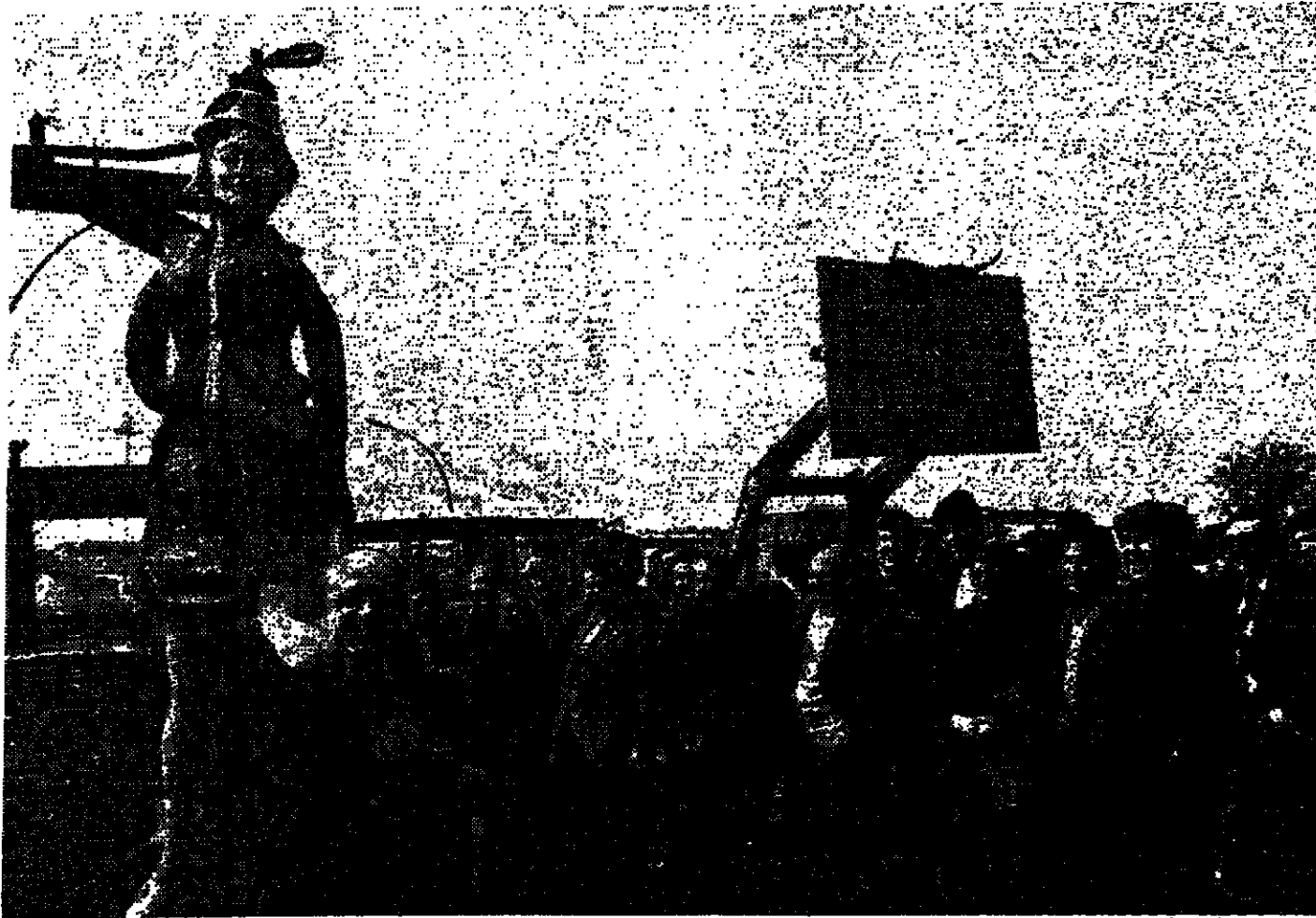
The frontage of the Parliament building usually flies flags of all member-states of the Council of Europe. Today they were all hauled down by the farmers, the Union Jack being the first to come down and be ceremoniously burnt.

Then regional names went up to fly instead, the Marne and Vaucluse leading the way.

Britain was a special target for the French farmers, because Britain has taken the lead in trying to freeze farm prices. Some of the banners read: "Dehors au perfide Albion" ("Out with perfidious Albion").

By chance M. Pierre Pflimlin, Mayor of Strasbourg and a vice-president of the European Parliament, was in the chair as British MEPs returned from the burning ceremony to make their instant complaint. M. Pflimlin assured Mr. John Taylor that the Union Jack would be quickly replaced.

A British Conservative back-



French farmers protesting in Strasbourg over EEC farm prices prepare to hang an effigy of Mrs Thatcher.

bench motion was tabled before the flag did fly again, Mr. David Harris (Cornwall) and several colleagues will now press to debate tomorrow a motion: "That this house deplores the failure of the French police, who were present in considerable numbers to prevent the destruction of national flags, particularly the burning of the Union Jack at the entrance to the European Parliament building."

Mr. Harris and others considered that there was a failure by the authorities to call up hundreds of police reinforcements who had been surrounding every approach to the Parliament building from early morning.

Meanwhile, amid signs that the European Parliament will vote tomorrow in favour of the Community's farm lobby, Mr. Roy Jenkins, President of the Commission, today came near to showing open disgust and unbecoming despair at the prospect of a general retreat from the trenches dug when MEPs rejected the 1980 budget in December. He as brave now as you were then, he said in effect.

The Commission has proposed farm increases in 1980-1981 averaging 2.4 per cent, with a super levy penalizing excessive milk production.

The farm lobby in Parliament has proposed a 7.5 per cent average increase that is begin-

ning to attract support except among British MEPs, and the Parliament's budgetary flank could easily be turned by the Council of Agricultural Ministers meeting tomorrow.

"I appeal to you," Mr. Jenkins said in your deliberations today and in your votes tomorrow to stick firm to that concept which you formed and affirmed three months ago.

The Commission have made their proposals in the light of the budget's rejection. We have respected your courage and determination. For your sake more than for ours, do not saw off the branch of the tree upon which in December you so insistently invited us to sit."

1980 budget, as a matter of principle, for a different approach to agriculture and agriculture's place within the budget. The Community budget, Mr. Jenkins said, "is bleeding to death on a surfeit of milk."

Mr. Finn Olav Gundelach, Commissioner for Agriculture, said that the common agricultural policy could collapse if they did not make the right decisions. He advised a middle course between an abrupt decline in farm incomes and treating agriculture more favourably than the rest of the economy. They must, however, tackle the agricultural surpluses.

Parliamentary report, page 14

'Political will' key to EEC payments plan

Continued from page 1

of an adequate and acceptable solution to current problems."

That "given the political will" is of course the key qualification that Lawson made were not prepared to allow Mr. Lawson. Government spokesmen had no evidence to offer that any political will exists among the other eight Community members to agree the Commission's proposal for massive spending in Britain.

Whatever the domestic political dispute, the Government evidently believes it has shrewdly struck a psychological blow for Britain in being positive for once in this bitter debate over the budget. The document's key phrase, to official British minds, was at last and more explicitly than ever before the existence of a Community "mechanism" that could channel its British spending programmes whatever money the heads of government might agree.

Thus, in theory, the solution for virtual elimination of the British net contribution is there for the taking.

The key paragraph of the EEC document runs as follows, with special emphasis on the last sentence, in the British official view:

The basic concept is of a special, temporary and ad hoc action in the shape of a number of expenditure programmes within regions of the United Kingdom, which would be part-financed by the Community. The programmes must be clearly defined and must respond not only to the aim of increasing United Kingdom participation in Community expenditure, consistently with the objectives of Community policies, but also to the general Community interest and to the need for convergence of its economies. From the work which the Commission has undertaken no possible programme is already evident that whatever resources the European Council may decide to provide for this purpose could be fully used in the framework of the principles and criteria set out.

The Commission suggests that the measures should be limited perhaps to three or four years—a point arousing objection in Whitehall on the assumption that such deadlines have a way of slipping.

The point here is that the Commission has been discussing for some time with British officials the kind of expenditure programme that could be aided. No one was disclosing which ones yesterday, but clearly there are enough around—coal development for instance—in which EEC money could be substituted for the bulk of the British portion, thus leaving them still "part financed."

This way, British receipts from the Community would fund our "net" contribution fall. That would meet Mr

Lawson's celebration yesterday in one radio interview that "we would not have to match these funds out of the Exchequer".

However, the political will of the other EEC heads of government to surrender money to be spent in Britain is quite another question. As was shown yesterday in a preview of television retransmission of the Dublin summit, to be shown next Monday on Granada's World in Action programme, leaders from France and Denmark were particularly resentful of the idea of a special fund for Britain.

At one point President Giscard d'Estaing is depicted as suggesting such ideas are "the outcome of an Anglo-British negotiation", put forward by Mr. Roy Jenkins, the Commission's President, after consulting Mrs. Thatcher.

Michael Hornsby writes from Brussels: The warm welcome in London last night for the European Commission document has caused bewilderment in Brussels and other EEC capitals, mixed with hope that it might presage a more conciliatory attitude.

There are in fact no new proposals whatever. The Commission merely describes the document as a four-page summary of a series of proposals it had submitted to them over the past five months, coupled with updated estimates of their net budget positions in 1979 and 1980.

The document was intended to facilitate discussion at the EEC summit meeting which was to have been held here next week but has now been postponed, probably to a date in the second half of April, at the request of the Italians, who hold the EEC presidency.

Commission officials were frankly astounded, it is gratified, to hear Mr. Lawson describe the document as "an important new step forward" since it contains nothing that has not been discussed many times before.

Diplomats from other member states were not sure whether to attribute Mr. Lawson's remarks to an uncertain grasp of EEC affairs or whether to take them as a genuine signal of British willingness to compromise after several weeks of tension and polemics, over the budget issue.

Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes: The new Commission paper was hailed as "a helpful and useful document" by the Foreign Office.

Its significance according to British sources, is that it shows clearly that the whole problem of the British budgetary contribution can indeed be solved within the framework of the Community's rules.

Legality of VAT action disputed

From Michael Hornsby, Brussels, March 25

Would Mrs. Thatcher be in breach of EEC law if she withheld British payments of value-added tax (VAT) to Brussels as she has threatened to do if she cannot get agreement on reducing Britain's contribution to the Community budget?

British officials have suggested that such action might not necessarily be illegal, though without adding much evidence to support this claim. The view of legal experts in Brussels is that Britain certainly would be breaking the law.

Britain's obligation arises chiefly from the own resources regulation adopted on April 21, 1970 by the old Community of Six and inherited by the British as part of EEC law on entry in 1973.

The regulation provided that EEC budget revenue should in future be derived from customs duties and agricultural levies on goods imported into the Community, plus the proceeds "accruing from value-added tax and obtained by applying a rate not exceeding 1 per cent

to an assessment basis which is determined in a uniform manner for member-states according to Community rules".

Until the adoption of this regulation, EEC expenditure had been financed by direct contributions from member-states' exchequers in accordance with a key based on their share of Community gross national product.

The revenue from customs duties and levies to be entered in the EEC budget from January 1, 1971, and for the VAT element to be introduced on January 1, 1975, provided a common assessment base had been agreed by then.

In fact it was not until May 16, 1977, that EEC member states now including Britain, Denmark and Ireland, adopted the "Sixth VAT Directive" which established a common list of goods and services on which VAT was to be levied.

There thus appears to be no doubt that Britain would be violating both the basic "own resources" regulation of April 1970 and the subsequent VAT

directive of May 1977 if it refused to hand over the required percentage of VAT to Brussels.

What muddles the picture somewhat, however, is the fact that other member-states have fallen short of their obligations under the VAT directive if not in so blatant a way as Britain is threatening to do—and have not been punished for so doing.

The Sixth Directive required that VAT payments should be paid on a monthly basis. But only Britain and two other member-states were ready to comply by that deadline, which the Commission under pressure then agreed to postpone until January 1, 1979.

Even then, however, three countries—Germany, Ireland and Luxembourg—did not start making VAT payments, but continued with the old method of direct financial contributions.

As a result, Germany paid about £30 million less into the budget last year than Ireland nearly £8 million less than they would have done if they had been paying over part of VAT. No attempt has been made to recover this money from either country.

The Pope likely to visit Paris in June

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris, March 25

France is likely to visit the Pope at the beginning of June, and make a speech at the UNCTAD headquarters in Paris, probably on the occasion of the meeting of its executive committee.

There is no official confirmation of this news either from the Vatican or from the French Bishops' Conference. But it is becoming stronger as time goes by. The Pope would be responding to an invitation of Mr. Amadour Maheux, the director-general of Unesco.

Mr. Angelo Felici, the papal Nuncio in Paris, and Mr. Renzo Frasca, the permanent observer of the Holy See at Unesco, are to go to Rome within the next few days to discuss arrangements of the papal visit.

The programme would include an open air Mass in Paris, probably on the Esplanade des Invalides. The Pope might also go to Strasbourg, to call on the European Assembly, and to visit the statue of St. Theresa in Lisieux, Normandy.

Kidnap victim freed

Milan, March 25—Signora

Giuseppina Parodi Spinola aged 40, daughter of Signor Aldo Parodi, the President of the Italian Swimming Federation, was released near here today by kidnappers who had held her since December 4.

Setback in British fight to lift France's lamb ban

From Our Own Correspondent, Brussels, March 25

Britain has suffered a setback in its campaign to get emergency legal action against France's restrictions on imports of British lamb.

Signor Francesco Capotorti, the Advocate-General of the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg, has given his opinion that such action is not justified by the circumstances of the case.

The opinion of the Advocate-General, whose function is to sum up the issues and recommend a verdict, is always influential, but the court does not have to follow his advice.

The court's decision is expected at the end of this week or the beginning of next.

Earlier this month, after weeks of pressure from Britain, the European Commission went

to the court to ask for an order requiring France to abolish its lamb import curbs pending a final verdict in the legal case against it.

The Commission argued that there was ample justification for such action—equivalent in English legal parlance to an "interlocutory injunction"—since the court had already ruled last September that a French ban on lamb imports was illegal.

The French then replaced this outright ban with a prohibitive import levy of equivalent effect which led the Commission to initiate new proceedings against France.

While there is little doubt that the court will eventually rule once again against the French, it could be some months before a verdict is handed down.

Seveso firm to pay £23m

From Our Correspondent, Geneva, March 25

The company whose factory in Seveso in northern Italy incidentally released a cloud of dioxin-laden vapour over the surrounding countryside in July, 1976, has agreed to pay about £23m in compensation.

The Giavonni Chemical Company said today it had reached an out-of-court settlement with the Italian Govern-

ment and the authorities in Lombardy.

Under the agreement, subject to approval by a Lombardy regional parliament, the company will also meet the final cost of decontamination.

According to the parent company of Giavonni, Hoffman La Roche of Basel, the total cost of the accident was about £39m.

Russians hand back two British soldiers

Bonn, March 25—Two young British soldiers who strayed across the border into East Germany last weekend were handed back early today by Soviet authorities.

Fusiliers Stephen Oliver, aged 18, and John Patrick, aged 19, of the First Battalion Royal Highland Fusiliers, were handed over to the military police about 1 a.m. a Rhine Army spokesman said.

The two soldiers were fit when they were returned at the East-West German border crossing point of Helmstedt.

The soldiers, both from western Scotland, were based at Hemer, near Iserlohn. Fusiliers Oliver and Patrick were in the Fusilier Patrick from Greenock. —Reuter.

Mitterrand-Berlinguer talks to foster Euroleft idea

From Ian Murray, Paris, March 25

Relations between the French Communists and Socialists seem to go from bad to worse. Undeterred by this, however, in his dream of an alliance of the left, M. Francois Mitterrand, the Socialist leader, has just held a long private meeting with Signor Enrico Berlinguer, the Italian Communist leader.

After meeting yesterday in the lobbies of the European Parliament in Strasbourg they said in a joint statement that initiatives had to be taken contributing to disarmament, détente and European cooperation.

Their aides have been planning the meeting for some time. As neither could visit the other in his capital without insulting Italian Socialists in Rome or French Communists in Paris,

they chose Strasbourg as the best for avoiding offence.

M. Georges Marchais, the French Communist leader, has nevertheless reacted vehemently to news of the meeting, saying that it was singularly inappropriate. He again accused M. Mitterrand of continuing to act in concert with the French Government leaders to weaken the Communist Party.

The meeting, according to M. Marchais, was particularly regrettable because it was held at a time when "reactionaries and Socialists are preparing another hard blow at French peasantry and agriculture."

The Communist deputies, who have been meeting in conference in Le Havre for the past two days, reaffirmed in their final motion their belief in "a free and sovereign

France". It was the sole duty of the elected representatives of France to decide the affairs of the country, they said.

The Giscardian Government, the motion went on, was converging with the Socialists to gain further support for its "anti-social and anti-national policies".

The Socialist deputies, who have been holding a day-long conference in Marseilles, heard that in fact it was a "Giscard-Marchais" pact which was endangering France. Mr. Laurent Fabius, the Socialist spokesman, accused both men of forming an "internal Yalta" which had created a pact against change.

The Communists and Socialists seem to agree only in their condemnation of the Government. Both conferences heard sarcastic comment on President Giscard d'Estaing's pronouncement

on Sunday that he was seeking "the middle way" in politics.

M. Mitterrand has tried to prove by his meeting with Signor Berlinguer that he is still very much a man of the left, unshaken by any contact with the Giscardian Government. At the same time, he has sought to show that the French Communist Party is increasingly isolated from Eurocommunist thinking.

The meeting also represents a step towards a possible creation of a "Euroleft", an ideal very much in line with the aspirations of both M. Mitterrand and Signor Berlinguer. The Italian leader has recently been strengthening his contacts with social democratic leaders in Europe, believing that a strong "Euroleft" would be an important factor in the search for détente.

OVERSEAS

Soviet leaders absent from meeting amid talk of renewed illness

From Michael Binyon, Moscow, March 25

Both President Brezhnev and Mr. Kosygin, the Prime Minister, failed to appear today for the opening session of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Republic, of which they are both members, and Soviet sources have suggested that they are both unwell again.

The Russian Republic is the largest of the 15 Soviet republics, and elections to its Supreme Soviet—the nominal equivalent of a local parliament—were held a month ago; all except two of the Politburo are members and made election speeches. It was for his election speech that Mr. Kosygin reappeared in public after a long absence following a heart attack in October.

His absence at today's opening suggests that he has still not fully recovered. He also played no part in discussions with a delegation from Nicaragua, which left the Soviet Union yesterday after signing a series of agreements that considerably increase the ruling Sardinista Liberation Front's links with the Soviet Union.

Normally Mr. Kosygin would have led the Soviet side in such negotiations.

Mr. Brezhnev could also have been expected to meet the Nicaraguans as ideological and party matters were discussed. But sources in Moscow say the

Nicaraguans were told that both leaders were indisposed and would not be able to meet them.

Moscow sources also report that a Kremlin ceremony planned for President Brezhnev was cancelled at short notice yesterday. The Soviet leader, who is 73, and has just surpassed Stalin as the oldest party leader to hold office in the Soviet Union, was to have received the Lenin Prize for literature, which has been awarded last year for his three-volume autobiography.

Two other top Soviet leaders are also absent from the Supreme Soviet session. Mikhail Suslov, the party ideologist who is aged 77, was absent and so was Mr. Andrei Kirilenko who is in Budapest attending the Hungarian party congress. Only five of the 12 Politburo members who sit in the Russian Supreme Soviet attended.

The absence of the others could be deliberate so as not to highlight the absences of Mr. Brezhnev and Mr. Kosygin. Tass appeared to play down reporting of the session.

The news agency said that Mr. Mikhail Solomentsev, a member of the Politburo and Prime Minister of the Russian Republic, was entrusted with forming a new government for the republic.

Iran anger at Shah's flight to Egypt

From Tony Allaway, Tehran, March 25

The flight of the former Shah to Egypt had badly damaged efforts to release 49 hostages being held by militant students, Mr. Sadegh Gotobadi, the Iranian Foreign Minister, told a special press conference today.

"It will make it extraordinarily difficult to act on that subject in the light of events," he said.

He also revealed that the Soviet Union had agreed "in principle" to regional talks on the Afghanistan crisis.

Mr. Gotobadi's press conference was held here shortly after a noisy crowd estimated at about 50,000 had gathered outside the occupied United States Embassy to denounce the Shah's move to Egypt.

The crowds chanted for the overthrow of President Sadat of Egypt. The Tehran Militant Clergy Society had called the demonstration to "show our hatred and disgust at this treacherous American plot. The society has close links with the students holding the hostages."

Western diplomatic sources said the Shah's flight from Panama on the eve of formal Iranian extradition proceedings against him was something of an embarrassment for the Iranian Government, especially since Mr. Gotobadi had at one time claimed the Shah was under

detention by the Panamanian authorities.

The sources said the move had, for the time being, strengthened the hand of the student militants who demand a "hardline revolutionary" solution to the crisis, and might make it difficult even for the forthcoming parliament to engineer a quick end to the crisis.

Gaining a moral victory for Iran, Mr. Gotobadi reflected that the Shah's stay in Egypt would have "tremendous repercussions in the region".

Turning to the Afghanistan issue, Mr. Gotobadi said the idea for regional talks to solve the crisis had been put forward by Iran to Mr. Vladimir Vinogradov, the Soviet Ambassador in Tehran, three weeks ago.

He said the aim of the talks would be to effect the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan "and respect for and guarantee its territorial integrity and neutrality."

Sadat offered: The Shah has accepted an offer to remain permanently in Egypt, President Sadat said today. "He will live in Egypt among brothers and friends."

The Shah was running a high fever and was about to begin a series of X-ray before having his enlarged spleen removed in the next few days, President Sadat said today as he left the Meadi hospital after visiting the Shah. —Agence France Presse.

Whites fleeing Chad war tell of children shot

Douala, Cameroon, March 25

Several hundred white refugees from Chad, most of them French, arrived here from battle-torn Nijamena with tales of children shot to death, and a general intention not to return.

One Frenchman, who had been providing technical assistance in the former French colony, said he saw children lying dead on the pavements.

He was among 189 whites who were flown out yesterday on French troop transports. Another 280 or so whites remained in the Chad river, near Ndjamena.

Most of the 900 whites in Nijamena were French, with a few Americans, West Germans, Swiss and other nationalities.

The fighting, which has been going on since Saturday morning, is between the private armies of President Goukouni Weddeye and Mr. Hissene Habre, the Defence Minister.—Agence France Presse.

Israel rebuffs US plea to halt settlements

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, March 25

A determined American attempt to maintain the momentum of the Middle East peace process by securing a temporary freeze on all new Jewish settlements in occupied Arab territory has been rebuffed by Mr. Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister.

Diplomatic observers believe that this will further increase the strain in Israeli-American relations and add to the problems facing President Carter when he meets Mr. Begin and President Sadat of Egypt separately in Washington next month.

The meetings have been called to force progress in the deadlock talks over an acceptable form of autonomy for the million Palestinians living in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

It is understood that the American proposal has been personally approved by President Carter and would have in-

High cost of making monkey of scientist

From David Cross, Washington, March 25

Senator William Brock, who has made a reputation for himself by poking fun at government agencies, has made a "monkey" out of a well-known scientist.

Each month the Wisconsin hands out a "Fleece" award to an agency for what is to be the biggest, loudest or most ironic taxpayers' money.

One recent award National Institute of Health for funding behavioural and social studies in "ferrets" another to the Department for study into bored pregnant pigs.

Details of the award in racy press, American newspaper vision stations.

This was the Senator Proxmire's award to three federal agencies for spending \$222,000 on a research project to make a "monkey" out of a mental hospital in Dr. Hutchinson was experiments into ag in monkeys.

The press release the Senator did not mention that monkeys clacked and commented that, make the taxpayer's monkeys grin.

Like many of the other victims, Dr. Hutchinson was not letting the there, he decided to address by filling (\$3.6m) libel suit.

Proxmire's courts ruled that the monkeys were not collect damages. Proxmire's comment, he said, was "a right to say what I think."

Supreme Court of the United States has ruled that the press could be sued in Senate chamber.

This ruling paved an out of court settlement of the libel suit against Proxmire, apparently \$10,000 in damages for his legal costs. In agreed to make a the Senate administrator of the statements: 1975 press release correct.

Some of my new research may be an interpretation of the one I intended to clarify to his colleagues.

It would be a conclusion about son's research are not necessarily people he contacted investigations, he fact a number of pe and outside the fu cies state that Dr. J research was merit

Senate investigates Murdoch li

From Michael Leppman, New York, March 25

The Senate banking committee is looking into whether Mr. Rupert Murdoch used the political influence of his New York evening newspaper to gain a United States Government loan at low interest for his Australian airline.

The loan was approved by the Export-Import bank in Washington last month within a few days of the New York Post endorsing President Carter for re-election.

In a letter to the bank, Senator William Proxmire, the banking committee chairman, and Senator Adlai Stevenson, chairman of its international finance subcommittee, wrote that the juxtaposition of the loan and the endorsement "gives an appearance of impropriety and leaves the impression that a key government agency may have been politicized to further the President's reelection."

The loan is for \$206m (£100m), slightly more than half the cost of 21 Boeing airliners ordered by Ansett, the Australian airline in which Mr. Murdoch bought a controlling interest last December. The interest rate will vary between 8 and 8.4 per cent.

Though interest on govern-

ment loans tied to purchases on this scale is customarily much lower than on ordinary commercial loans, this is a highly favourable arrangement at a time when the commercial prime rate is soaring to nearly 20 per cent.

The low interest rate is reported to have been an important factor in Mr. Murdoch's decision to buy Boeings instead of the competitive European Airbus. The best rate he was offered on an Airbus purchase was 9.25 per cent.

The key date in the investigation of how the American loan came to be approved is February 15, in the morning, Mr. Murdoch met Mr. John Moore, president and chairman of the Export-Import Bank, who was appointed to that post by President Carter in 1977.

Mr. Moore then went to have lunch with officials of Boeing, while Mr. Murdoch, excused himself, saying he was having lunch with the President. Three days later the New York Post endorsed Mr. Carter for his party's nomination for president, urging New Yorkers to vote for him in today's Democratic primary.

On February 28 the Export-Import Bank approved the loan to Ansett. According to a report in The New York Times,

several officials of the Treasury expressed the view that the interest too low.

zambian opening to the West cated in Soames talks as enterprise makes comeback

Asford
arch 25
smith with which
mes, Governor of
Rhodesia, was re-
ing his brief stay in
e this week is not
flection of Mozam-
in Rhodesia but also
e clearest indication
desire to establish
tomic and political
he West.
e it became apparent
d be a settlement in
Mozambique has
y trying to improve
s with Western, and
European nations.
e time, its drive to
new trade and aid
the West has coinci-
President Machel's
mpts to put his
economy on a more
ing.
President Machel
ong public criticism
ficiency and corrup-
tion within his Ad-
n, the state-run cor-
and the ruling
ary. He also prom-
in to private enter-
g small and medium-
esses, many of which
malized when the
came independent.
followed up his
inefficiency by re-
eigning ministers of
s was designed to
people that President
uld not tolerate in-
any level.
mican businessman
President Machel

has been worried by the de-
teriorating state of the economy
for some time but felt there
was little he could do about
it until the Rhodesian problem
had been resolved. Now that is
out of the way he has decided
the time has come to put his
own house in order.
Though Mr Machel is still
committed to establishing
socialism in Mozambique, his
recent actions and speeches re-
flect a change of emphasis in
favour of a limited return of
free enterprise. Business
sources in Maputo believe that
this, together with the reopen-
ing of the Rhodesian border,
could lead to a modest improve-
ment in the country's economy.
The President hopes that this
revival will be further stimu-
lated by trade and economic
assistance from the West rather
than from the Communist block
countries with which Mozam-
bique has close political ties
and on which it depends for
military assistance. During his talks
with the Mozambican leader,
Lord Soames, who returned to
Salisbury today, suggested that
the repair and rehabilitation of
Mozambique's railways and
ports could be partly financed
by the European Development
Fund.
Lord Soames said later that
although Mozambique was not
party to the Lusaka Convention,
a strong case for European
assistance could be made on the
grounds that these railways and
ports served countries such as
Zambia and Zaire which were
Lome members.
Lord Soames said he had also

discussed with President
Machel and Mr Joaquim Chis-
sano, the Foreign Minister, the
possibility of Mozambique itself
becoming a member of the
Lomé Convention. If this hap-
pened it would be a significant
political shift by Mozambique
whose present close ties with
East Germany (and particularly
its position on the status of
Berlin) have hitherto prevented
its association with the Euro-
pean Community.
Lord Soames announced that
M Claude Cheysson, the EEC
Commissioner for aid and
development, would go to
Mozambique after his visit to
Rhodesia.
President Machel had empha-
sized his desire for further
"cooperation" with Britain,
rather than requesting addi-
tional economic assistance, Lord
Soames said. It was hoped that
the British Government would
give encouragement to private
businesses that wanted to invest
in or trade with Mozambique.
The Governor said that
Britain looked forward to a
more open relationship with
Mozambique now that the
Rhodesian problem had been
settled.
Children killed: Three children
were killed and 19 people in-
jured, some seriously, when a
hand grenade exploded last
night in a township on the
northern edge of Salisbury
among a crowd of blacks cele-
brating the recent election
victory of Mr Robert Mugabe in
Rhodesia. Police sources be-
lieved the explosion was acci-
dental.—Reuter.

Westminster requiem for murdered archbishop

By Our Foreign Staff

The Archbishop of West-
minster is to hold a requiem
Mass in Westminster Cathedral
on April 2 for Oscar
Romero, the Archbishop of San
Salvador murdered in church.
The Catholic Institute for Inter-
national Relations has
announced.
Cardinal Hume is president of
the institute, a voluntary aid
and development agency with
numerous projects in Latin
America.
The archbishop's death was
related to "the struggle to
secure respect for human rights
of the poor and oppressed in
Latin America", the institute
said. The archbishop was
aware that he was in danger
and many threats had been
made on his life.
The British Council of
Churches expressed "grief and
horror at the cruel murder".
At the House of Commons, Sir
Keith Joseph, deputising for the
Prime Minister at question time,
agreed with Mr David Alton,
Liberal MP for Liverpool, Ed-
ward Hill, that MPs would wish to
express their sorrow at the
killing. More than 100 MPs had
nominated the archbishop for
the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize.
Vatican response: The Pope,
when told of the San Salvador
killing, was deeply sad-
dened, a brief announcement
from the Vatican said. The
Pope had received the arch-
bishop in private audience a
month ago.—UPI.

Leading article, page 17
(1) Itinerary, page 19



A nun mourns for the Archbishop of San Salvador, lying dead
beside her after being murdered in chapel by armed men.

Peking is reluctant to buy British arms

Peking, March 25.—A British
drive to sell weapons to China
and to take part in its develop-
ment plans has met with little
success. British sources said
today. There were no immedi-
ate prospects of arms sales, and
the Chinese response to sug-
gestions for civil contracts had
not been encouraging.

During talks here with Mr
Francis Pym, the Secretary of
State for Defence, yesterday,
Chinese officials made it clear
that they still considered the
British Harrier jump-jet to be
too expensive.

China is reported to be
interested in buying about 60
of the aircraft, and negotiations
have been going on for more
than two years.

The sources said China re-
cently concluded a contract
with a British shipbuilder for
two cargo ships, but there was
no apparent prospect of war-
ship sales.

According to the sources,
many British companies had
overestimated the possibilities
of trade with China in late 1978.

British industry had indicated
that it would appreciate "some
gestures to ease the wait," that
is, some smaller contracts first,
but the Chinese response so far
had not been encouraging,
according to the sources.

A hint of impatience crept
into Mr Pym's toast at a
banquet given in his honour last
night by Mr Xu Xiangqian, the
Chinese Defence Minister.

"British industry is keen to
contribute to the modernization
of China and so is Her
Majesty's Government," and
have put a lot of effort in
terms of time, money and tech-
nical exchanges into demon-
strating how they can help," Mr
Pym said. "We want to see a
major expansion in civil trade
and we have already made
clear our readiness to supply a
range of military equipment."

Mr Pym, who arrived last
Sunday, is scheduled to meet
Chairman Hua Guofeng to-
morrow before leaving for
Shanghai, where he will attend
the opening of a British aero-
space exhibition.—Reuter.

Bus murderer executed

Peking, March 25.—A young
peasant found guilty of murder-
ing a bus driver was executed
here yesterday. Zhang Chouyao
and three others scuffled on
the bus in a Peking suburb on
the night of February 17 and
stabbed the driver in the back.
The intermediate People's
Court of Peking, which sen-
tenced Zhang to death, also
sentenced two of his accom-
plices to 15 years' jail.—
Agence France-Press.

Hungary attack on 'laziness'

Budapest, March 25.—Hung-
ary must step up its campaign
against lazy workers and lene-
dneck factories if it is to over-
come its major economic prob-
lems, Mr György Lazar, the
Prime Minister, said today.
He told the communist party
congress here that recent eco-
nomic reforms, which included
cuts in Government subsidies
for factories and more competi-
tive wages, must be implemen-
ted at all levels of the economy.

im challenge to Assad rule

Black troops watch -torn Aleppo

Art Fisk
via, March 25
000 troops of the
rd Armoured Divi-
sion read out across the
south of Aleppo like
an 18th century army,
sweeping in white
tr the landscape and
ners fussing over
ieces as if the old
north was about to
resigned history.
t Assad has ferried
ldiers up from Quesi-
us of Syria's 1976
Lebanon—to assert
of central govern-
nd Aleppo.
rows of T54 and T62
ide the Damascus
eak louder than any
President's recent
even though they
read a shot.
ring and arson in
ond largest city was
o ignore; yet, para-
t was also too serious
s with the ruthless-
resident Assad might
ad at other times.
adequate enough
his in Aleppo itself,
a soldier can be seen
ers and where Presi-
t's torn and defaced
ang from the walls.
illar if claustrophobic
f armed plainclothes
en has disappeared
sixteenth century
tiefly occupied by the
r week, has been
and the broken
ramparts which stand
nt, smashed denture
city are deserted.
visited the office of
nor, you would not
t the Aleppo souk
closed down for two
t the Muslim brother-
rned tracts demand-
struction of President
overnment, or that as
60 men and women
dead in just two days

replies. "People came from the
mosque and were led like sheep
by people from outside the
country."

Exactly who did inspire the
closure of the bazaar is still an
intriguing question. His almost
casual reference to the mosque
is the only mention Mr Al-Qadi
makes to the religious enthu-
siasm of the Muslim Brother-
hood, whose ghostly hand,
painfully real assistance haunts
President Assad's regime.

That the Brethren exist is
without doubt. Their pam-
phlets, printed on sugar-grained
paper, have been pasted up in
Aleppo. They call for the over-
throw of the Assad Govern-
ment, specifically demanding
the destruction of the
"Alawite" authorities.

Leaflets' demands being negotiated

Broadsheets apparently
printed by a splinter group of
Syria's Communist Party also
condemn the Assad Govern-
ment but they omit any refer-
ence to the minority Alawite
sect of which the President is
a member.
More substantial are the
leaflets being circulated in the
city by a group calling itself
"the organization of Ulema"
(religious leaders of Aleppo)
and listing the following
specific if occasionally specious
demands:
1. All future state legislation
should conform to Koranic law.
2. The state of emergency in
Syria should be ended.
3. All "armed elements"
should withdraw from Aleppo.
4. All detainees should be
released.
5. All university teachers dis-
missed from their posts for
political reasons should be
reinstated.
6. All "misleading propa-
ganda" should be ended.
7. There should be "complete
freedom" in Syria.
These demands seem to have
formed the basis for negotia-
tions which have been going
on in Aleppo for the past four
days between a Baathist dele-
gation led by Mr Abdullah
al-Ahmar, the party's deputy
secretary-general, and a group
of lawyers, doctors, engineers
and academics in Aleppo.
Mr Al-Qadi says that the
party men spoke to "every-
one" in the city and there is
a suspicion that this comfort-
able euphemism includes rep-
resentatives of the Muslim
Brotherhood.
Certainly, the third demand
has been met; the only sol-
diers visible in Aleppo are
guarding a military office—the
sixth received from President
Assad himself two days ago,
when he told a sports congress
in Damascus that not all Mus-
lim brothers were traitors to
Syria.
It was, in retrospect, a re-
markable gesture for the Presi-
dent to have made and it is
being interpreted in Aleppo as
either a sign of political toler-
ance or of weakness. No one
has missed the significance of
the words "God is great" with
which Mr Assad now begins
his speeches.



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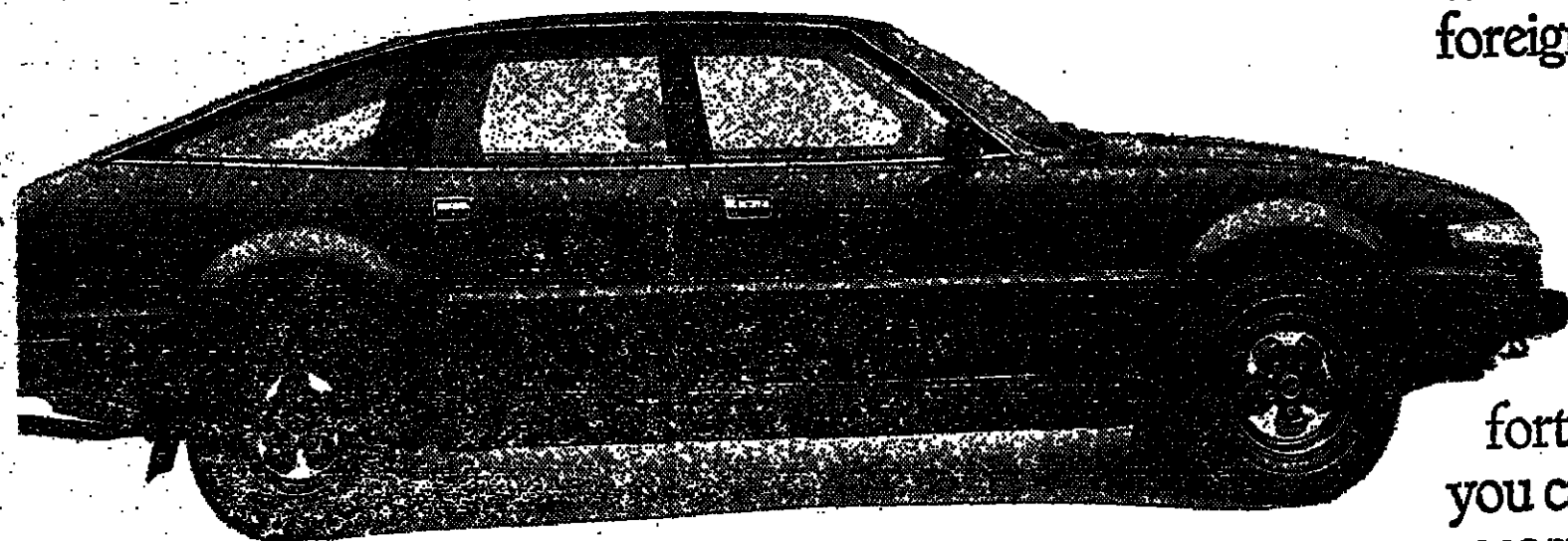
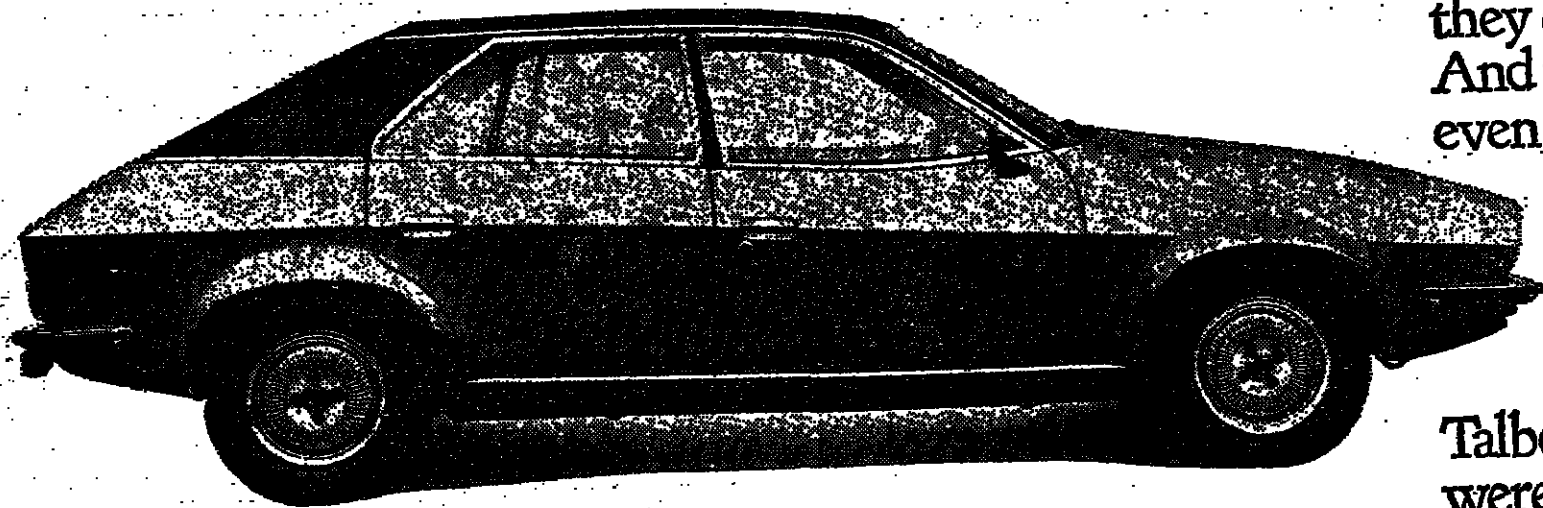
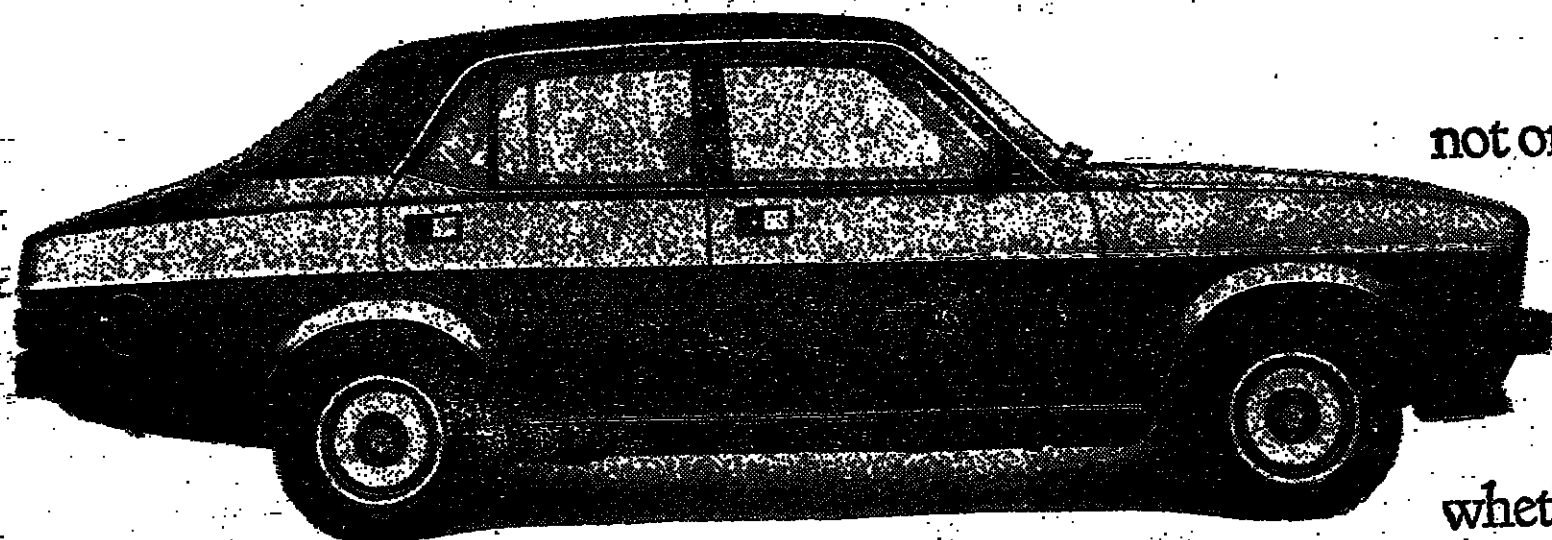
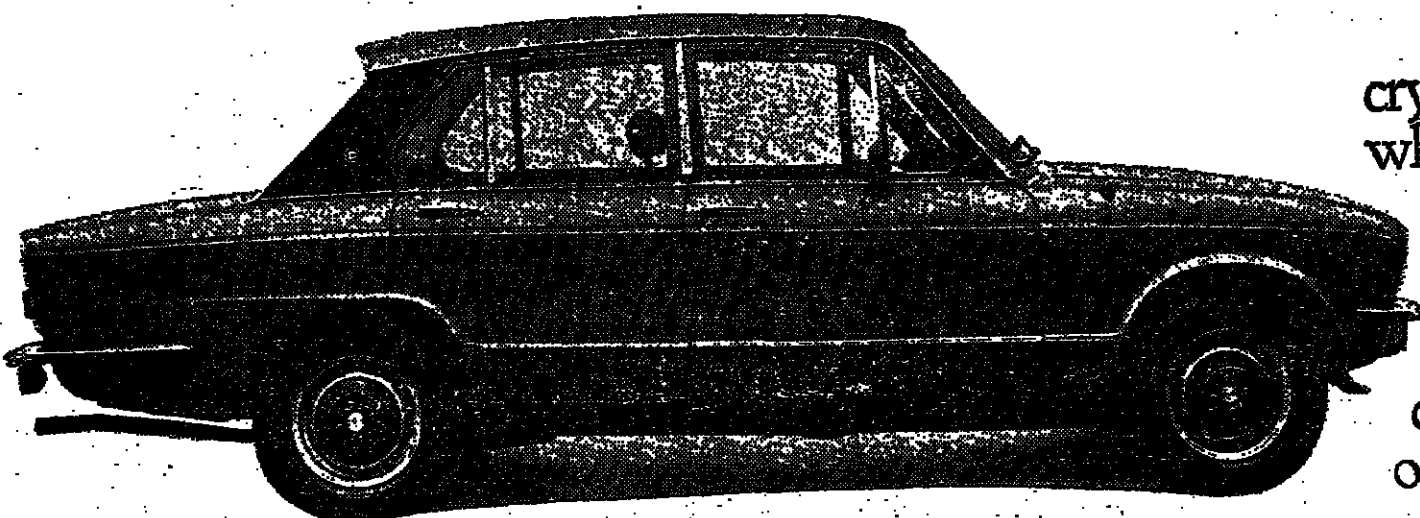
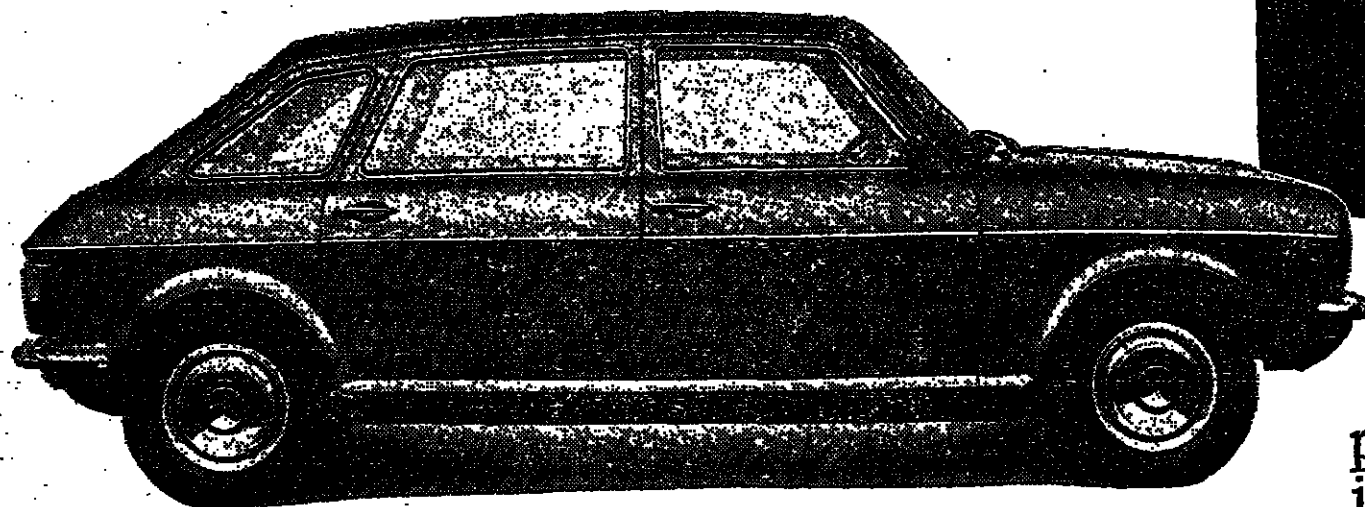
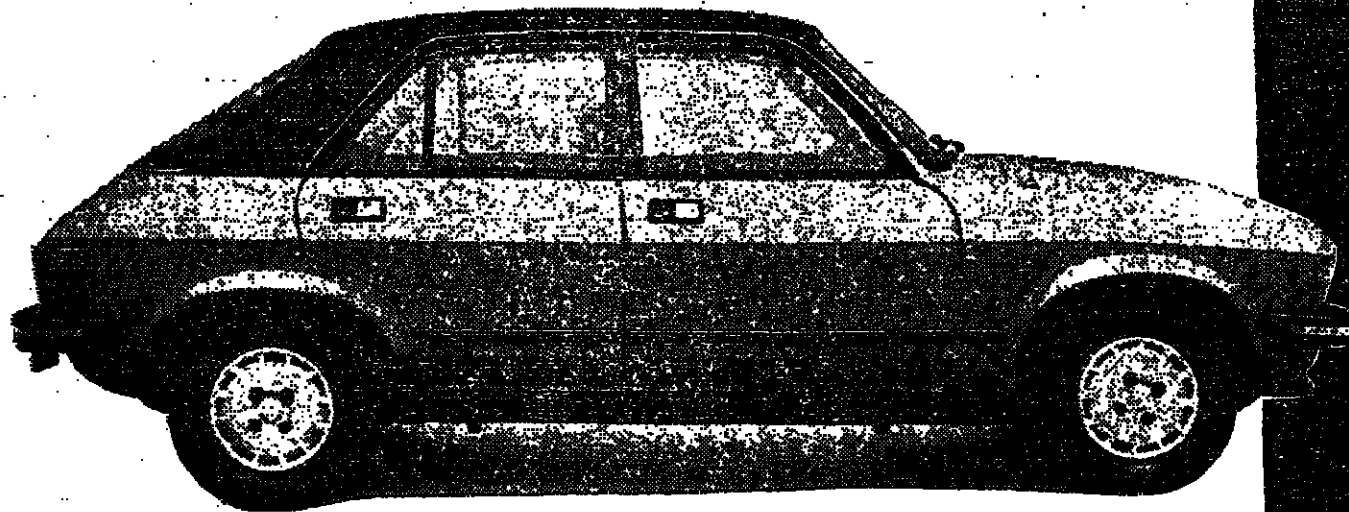
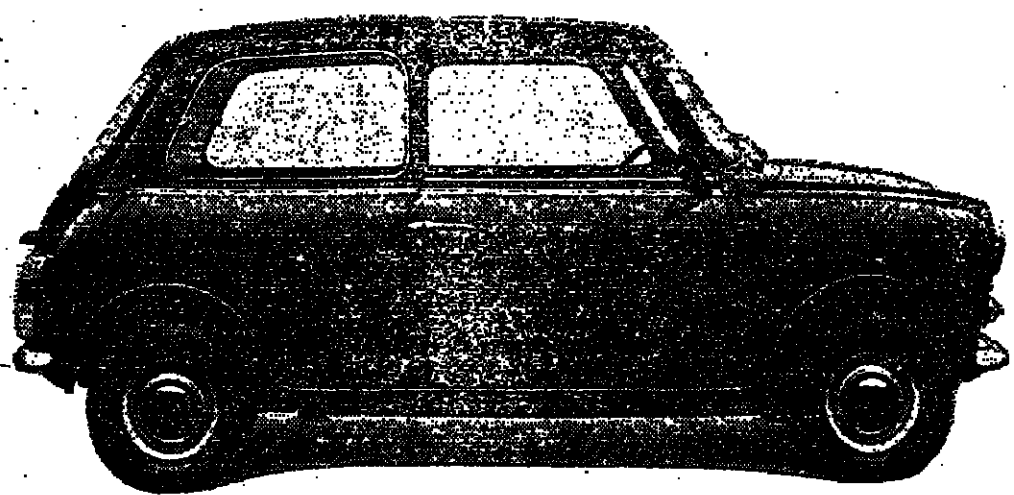
Qui ban on rant killing

March 25.—Poachers,
ughten an estimated
sprants a year in the
Africa Republic, face
frican sentences under
just introduced to try
er the speleph in the
has been banned, along
collection, commer-
in, import, export and
of ivory.

Strike by crews of icebreakers

Helsinki, March 25.—The
crews of Finland's 10 ice-
breakers went on strike today
after their demands for more
pay were turned down by the
Maritime Board.
The Seamen's Union said the
icebreakers would assist all
ships about to enter or leave
ports, but that cargo ships
and car ferries must try to
break the ice themselves.—AP.

1.50



BL CARS ARE CHEAPER TO RUN, WHATEVER SIR GEOFFREY SAYS.

The cost of running a car could change quite dramatically when Sir Geoffrey Howe unveils the Budget today. For example, increased petrol costs, V.A.T., road tax, purchase tax and import surcharges (on foreign cars) would all increase the cost of motoring.

But if you're buying a new car, you don't need a crystal ball to tell you which range of cars will run out cheaper, whatever Sir Geoffrey announces.

The BL range of British cars.

LOW RUNNING COSTS.

Compare these British cars with their foreign-made competitors and BL cars almost certainly give you the edge on running costs.

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Austin Morris Jaguar Rover Triumph

Rosemary Brown examines the way five families balance their books

How will the Budget affect your spending power?

After today's Budget, will you be feeling richer or poorer? And either way, do you know what you plan to do about it? If you are forced to economise, have you some idea where the savings could come? Alternatively, if the Chancellor leaves you with extra money, are you at risk of frittering it or have you isolated a specific priority?

As you sit down this evening to assess what effect the Budget will have on your standard of living, it could be a timely moment to work out just how and where your income is disappearing.

With the duty on alcohol widely

clipped to increase, do you know for example the total amount (including trips to the pub) you spend annually on drink? Or taking weekend outings, visiting friends and other incidental journeys into account, how much travelling really costs you? What about entertainment? Presents? Or the multiple "extras" incurred by the children: school trips, swimming, pocket money and so on?

We investigated in detail with five households how they budgeted and tried to ascertain with them how their economic situation today compares with a couple of years ago.

Only one family knew down to their last £100 precisely what they were spending on their different needs and activities, although the retired couple we spoke to also had a pretty shrewd idea of just what their pension was buying—and they were alone in never dipping into overdrafts.

Four out of five admitted that doing the sums with us made them realise how comparatively extravagant they were about certain items and said that, much as they would dislike it, if essential they could see areas for cuts. Other than our bachelor girl however, all were—or had been—making economies; and

top of the sacrifice list were clothes and holidays.

Although two of the three families were (or were about to be) educating at least one child privately, and one mother had fairly regular domestic help, none were the "au pair" stakes or had children at public school.

With assistance from Reward Regional Surveys, we estimate that without a private income, a scholarship or help from grandparents, it would be virtually impossible for a couple to maintain anything like their normal lifestyle and send two children to boarding school on net

earnings of less than £15,000. And most of the couples we questioned in this bracket said that, regardless of the tax cuts, both parents working, cheaper holidays (or no holidays), less entertaining and more DIY had become the order of the day.

Most prized business perk was unquestionably the company car; and certainly for middle income families, the biggest relief would be a reduction in mortgage interest rates. It was significant, however, that no one was expecting a rosy Budget or anticipating any additional spending power. Like you and our panel below, I'll be doing the arithmetic tonight.

Net Annual Income	£7,570
Expenses	
Mortgage	£1,208
Rates	£407
Gas, Electricity	£380
Insurance	£280
Telephone, TV, HP	£310
All petrol, upkeep of Mini	£628
Boys' pocket money	£150
Parents' personal spending	£520
Newspapers	£52
Housekeeping	£2,080
Fishing, swimming	£145
Meals out, etc	£130
Presents	£200
Additional on house/garden (1979)	£450
School uniform account	£120
Misc incl vet, cleaners, credit card interest	£110
Child benefit savings	£416
Total	£7,566

A holiday costing £600 will come partly from savings on decorating, partly from child benefit money.

David, Jenny and their son, 15, and Richard, 12, are spending a fortnight on a boat this summer. Two years ago, it would have been impossible. They were overdrawn and ruthlessly cut all non-essentials: clothes, entertainment, even the heating.

But a substantial rise and profit-sharing bonus have increased David's net salary to £5,750. With child benefit and Jenny's part-time earnings as an auxiliary nurse they now have an income of £7,570. David, a marketing executive, gets BUPA cover and a company car.

Their budgeting system sounds deceptively simple: £40 a week housekeeping out of which Jenny pays all food, drink, clothes (except school uniform), cleaning products and miscellaneous small items; £5 personal spending money each; child benefit is substantially saved: most of it will probably go towards the holiday this year. David pays all other bills.

Mortgage interest for a five-room house on a pleasant estate and linked endowment policy accounts annually for £1,208; rates, £407; gas and electricity, £380. Subtract other basics—telephone (£70), life insurance (£280), TV rental (£150) and

BP (£90)—and they are left with about £2,000.

Despite the fact the boys walk to school and take sandwiches, lunch, that Jenny is a family hairdresser, a skilled machinist and does all the laundry at home, that they virtually never go to the cinema, do not smoke and no longer require a babysitter, it is amazing how many expenses seem to remain.

There is petrol for travel to work, newspapers, cleaning bills, credit card interest, pocket money for the children and hormone pills for the cat. Presents cost £200 a year.

A major relief, compared with most of their friends, is that their mortgage which they have had 10 years is now comparatively small. This enables David to indulge his love of fishing, for them to eat out most months, go to a few dinner-dances, give a party every year—"we always did that, even at our brokest," says Jenny—and entertain friends to dinner occasionally.

They also swim a lot and Jenny has a beat-up old Mini. Not that she uses it much but "it is a sort of insurance policy" in case David ever lost his job and with it his company car.

The budget? "I'd like to see the standard rate of tax come down," though I don't think it will," says David.

Hugh and Louise are the first to agree that their budgeting is a bit hit and miss. Last year they reckoned to have about £9,500 to spend: £7,164 was Hugh's net salary as a publicity manager; £1,200 derived from Louise's home-based public relations company and small royalties; the remainder—a summer paying guest, selling some furniture, £200 building society interest and child benefit for their three daughters (15, 13 and 6).

Hugh has a company car and some paid business lunches. Louise runs a second car and domestic/business telephone entirely off her company. They invariably have a fluctuating overdraft. Hugh's gross salary has just increased by £1,700 to £11,500.

The biggest burden is the mortgage which, with linked policy on a seven-roomed house in Surrey, costs £350 a month. Two of the girls, the youngest and eldest, go to independent schools—though happily relations pay for Diana's boarding fees and uniforms. Luxuries include: a daily help during school hours, a babysitter about twice a month and £100 at the hairdresser for Louise.

However, she "virtually never" buys clothes; they economize on holidays (this year they are staying at home) and hawkishly watch the food bills. It is easier said than done, as they give a dinner party about once a month, her friends stay and often invite others

in for coffee and bridge. Although they are given quite a lot to drink—family presents and guests—Hugh estimates it still costs £150 a year.

Louise has £310 monthly housekeeping, from which she pays for food and domestic sundries, electricity, gas cylinders, newspapers, children's clothes, her personal expenses, vet's bill (they have a dog and cat), the paid help plus, if and when she can afford it, shrubs for the garden and some of the drink.

Hugh's extra worries are the lion's share of the heating, rates, life insurance, the "frightening" petrol bill for his car, debt repayment of £65 a month on a business venture that went wrong, piano and riding lessons for the girls, lunches, occasional "musts" like the mower he recently bought and any labour needed around the house, as he is handicapped and cannot do it himself (last year they spent £500 on an extension).

As an executive of 47, Hugh's clothes matter, which means another £13 monthly into a subscription account. Additionally, there are the many extras: presents (a family indulgence), £30 for a contract gardener, Diana's train fares to school and Joanna's school fees, for which in desperation Louise has just drawn £200 from the company.

Inflation? "Our overdrafts will just have to go up," says Hugh, "unless the Chancellor does something about mortgages."

Net Annual Income	£9,800
Approximate Expenditure	
Mortgage and linked policy	£4,200
Housekeeping: food, some fuel, papers, daily help, most clothes, vet and misc	£3,270
Rates	£360
Heating	£420
School fees	£600
Petrol, other travelling	£610
Life insurance	£200
Debt and overdraft interest	£850
Piano, riding, pocket money	£285
Hugh's clothes	£156
Total	£11,401

School and Hugh's lunches, some drink, presents, large purchases for the house and other items not budgeted—which Hugh's rise cannot possibly meet.

Net Annual Income	£11,800
Expenses	
Mortgage and linked policy	£4,140
Rates	£360
Basic housekeeping	£2,424
Heating, etc	£850
Telephone, papers	£225
School lunches	£108
Insurance	£355
Tobacco	£442
All entertainment	£730
Jane's extra spending money	£400
Holidays (last year £800-£900)	£25
Pocket money	£78
1979 Purchases for house/garden, est	£1,000
Misc incl clothes, drink est	£1,000
Total	£12,667

In September, education costs including lunches/fares will increase by about £1,125.

A net income of about £11,800, a company Jaguar on which all petrol bills are paid plus a business entertaining allowance sounds to most people like riches. But if, as Jane and Martin, you have just bought an eight-room house and are due to start paying school fees, budgeting suddenly means planning.

Both are 36. Martin is managing director of a computer company and last year his gross earnings including bonus were £13,500. Additionally, he received the odd cheque from speaking engagements, Jane made £400 from freelance clerical work and they got child benefit for their three children (aged 11, eight and four).

Other than feeding the Labrador, Jane's housekeeping (£150 a month plus child benefit) is simply for food and cleaning products. If necessary, Martin supplements it: pays the standard bills (rates, heating, TV rental, newspapers, school lunches, whatever is required for the garden), basically gives Jane what she needs for her and the children's clothes and apportiones the rest to entertainment, holidays (£800-£900 staying in Cornwall), his own expenses, presents (£460), drink and miscellaneous purchases such as the freezer.

Both smoke (£8.50 a week) and both are active. Martin plays snooker at the pub most

days, does the football pools, goes to rugby matches with his elder son and as a family they swim and occasionally skate. They frequently take the children to the local theatre, eat out about once a month (more if you count business entertaining and computer dinner dances) and usually have friends to stay every other week.

Although they do all their own decorating, drink few spirits, are lucky to have parents who babysit and Jane knits everyone's sweaters, for the past few years they have not thought very much about money—at least not to the extent of disciplining their spending. But now, with hugely increased mortgage repayments—£270 a month compared with £68 previously plus a new endowment-linked policy of £75—not to mention bigger heating costs, everyday life has become substantially more expensive.

The scholarship which they were hoping for would have helped. Cathy, the 11-year-old, will go to a fee-paying high school anyway but, other than a cheap week away for the two eldest—camping and a working holiday at a stable—the family will stay at home this summer.

Martin and Jane do not plan to impose an austerity campaign but it partly depends on the Budget. They would like, but don't expect, a further switch from direct to indirect tax and lowering of interest rates.

Net Weekly Income	£43
Standard/Average Expenses	
Rent and Rates	£10
Gas, Electricity	£4
Food, milk, etc	£18
Cleaning products	£1
Newspapers	£2
Laundrette	£0.50p
TV Rental	£0.78p
Budgie Seed	£0.33p
Batteries	£0.21p
Haircuts	£0.62p
Window cleaning	£0.33p
Total	£37.27p

£5.73p a week for all clothes, presents, cleaners, shoe repairs, postage and misc.

More than anything else, George and Mary would like a weekend by the sea in the old days. But on a retirement pension (including supplementary benefit) of £43 a week, it is just a dream.

Not that they are complaining. They live in a three-room centrally heated council flat with a small garden; have a budgie, a television, enough to eat, sufficient clothes, get the newspapers every day and are within easy walking distance of the library.

Mary has free chiropody, a bus pass (George does not bother, "no need, the shops are close") and they receive the £10 Christmas bonus.

More than a third of their income goes on food. Mary says the price of butter is a worry and they only occasionally buy fruit, but, by prudent shopping—going for the cheapest—the eat sensibly for £15 a week. Milk is extra. So is Guinness, which Mary who is anaemic has been told by the doctor to drink

daily. "36p, shocking isn't it? But we manage."

They manage, in fact, extremely well. Everything is spotless: windows are cleaned every three weeks ("have to on the ground floor in London") and clothes go regularly to the laundrette and cleaners. Mary likes wearing make-up, they both have a monthly haircut and even after paying all the outgoing on the flat—£10 rent plus £2 each for gas and electricity, which goes weekly into a fuel savings plan—they still always ensure that their five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren receive a present at Christmas. "It's the blooming postage," grumbled George. "That's something we've really noticed."

Any other routine expenses or occasional luxuries? Hearing aid batteries, TV rental, essential clothes—it does not leave much; but they enjoyed a duck and drop of brandy at Christmas and recently bought some new chair covers.

"I wouldn't say we were worse off than a couple of years ago," reflected George, "but what I'd like to see in the Budget is a £50 pension for a married couple and no messing about with supplementary."

Celia frankly admits that she is an impulsive spender, very extravagant and very extravagant. She is single, aged 28, works as a photographic studio assistant and lives in a two-room furnished flat in London. She earns £2,250 (net £315 a month) and also receives 30p lunch allowance. She recently had a big rise so is feeling prosperous, but says that even so she is invariably overdrawn.

Most of her money goes on pleasure. Her typical week reads: dining in a restaurant at least one evening, frequently two (£15?); two or three films, plays or jazz concerts (£10); entertaining friends most weekends plus an occasional supper. Additionally, she is attending a bird observation course, has just started driving lessons and goes to a couple of dinner parties a month when she usually takes a bottle of wine.

Celia was a bit startled when working out her weekly expenditure on drink: a bottle of whisky, the odd bottle of plonk, a few rounds at the pub—it amounts up. So too, in a mysterious way, do bills on clothes. Thirty pounds, £40 a month? If she spots "a lovely bar-

Net Monthly Income	£315
Approximate Expenditure	
Rent	£85
Gas, etc	£20
Supermarket	£40
London travel	£40
Driving lessons	£28
Entertainment	£80
Clothes, etc	£30
Misc	£20
Total	£323

Already overdrawn. Additional expenditure: train fares, lunches, presents, books and other misc.

"It could be more; Celia has a credit card which she uses to buy clothes, presents or something for the flat. Equally, it could be records or books ("I buy heaps of paperbacks") or "a special offer" on her favourite cosmetics.

Other incidents include hairdresser every two months (£11); stamps, cigarettes, laundrette (£1 each a week), lunches, television licence plus assorted travelling costs: season ticket, fare home to the West Country every three months (£35 return) and taxi to the country—and taxis she waited

possible only because she has two big economies: holidays last year, a week on a canal with a group of friends (£30); and "a lovely flat that's comparatively very cheap" £55 a month plus about £20 for telephone, gas and electricity. Also, because they entertain together, her boy friend often pays the supermarket bill; but, as Celia loves to cook, basic shopping still costs about £10 a week.

Her budget hopes? "Nothing from Sir Geoffrey. But perhaps I ought to start budgeting: go out less and save £50 a month. I could take up knitting..."

Children's Books

Every picture sells a story

Earlier this month *The Times*, in conjunction with Penguin Books, announced a competition to encourage new talent in the making of picture books. Called before a court of critics and librarians, however, *The Times* and Penguin Books might not find it altogether easy to justify so liberal an act. After all, it might be said there were more than 300 picture books published in 1979 and the best sort of competition would be one that encouraged people to stop producing the things rather than to produce more.

At first glance this argument

has some appeal, but, looking more keenly at those 300-odd gleaming volumes, I am less certain. Most of them are, as you might expect, professional examples of book production. Their creators take full advantage of the flexibility in design and the whirring of colour allowed by photolithographic printing. But when it comes to "newness" in the sense that they have something fresh to say, and when it comes to "talent" in the sense that they understand the inner coherence which picture books call for, then we seem to live in a time of dearth.

There are several, broadly economic, reasons for the polished and not-so-polished inadequacy of these books. At an individual level, for instance, there is considerable pressure on freelance picture-book illustrators, once he has found a successful formula, to go on repeating it—and a quantity of books last year by once-celebrated illustrators had all the characteristics of old confections newly labelled to keep up the annual royalties. Only geniuses like Randolph Caldecott could work to such a routine without losing their individual touch.

More generally, illustrators and publishers experience a variety of other pressures which currently seem to be fostering two mutually exclusive types of



James Marshall and the comic tradition in MacGoon's Grocery by Frank Asch (Kestrel £1.95).

picture book. On the one hand there is a growing number of "socially-committed" books—designed to help children to adjust to the norms that the adult manufacturers think most suitable—and these, by and large, carry illustrations which are as ham-fisted as their "message".

On the other hand there is

the panoply of elaborate coloured folios, emanating from such places as Milan and Munich, which are the product of publishing agreements that provide a comparatively cheap way of issuing what look like expensive books. The fact that the art-work is apparently done with galleries more in mind than books, and that the texts

are contrived, and often badly translated, is of less significance than the statement of the production. (Needless to say, the fashion has affected British artists, too. Apart from its exploitation of the gimmick of the treasure-hunt, Kit Williams's *Maskerade* is also notable as an anthology of the painterly tricks that have long been the preserve of Continental illustrators.)

Among so much that is didactic or sophisticated it is a pleasure to discover a few books from 1979 that have no pretensions, whatsoever. There is, for instance, *Phoebe and Sally Worthington's Teddy Bear Baker* (Warne £2.95), a successor, after 30 years to their much-loved *Teddy Bear Cook*. The sign of repetitiousness is a comparatively cheap way of issuing what look like expensive books. The fact that the art-work is apparently done with galleries more in mind than books, and that the texts

to entertain individual children. What they lack in smooth Teutonic paintwork they make up a hundredfold in warmth and in the play of visual ideas, and they offer some reassurance about the traditional strengths of the picture book.

When *The Times/Penguin* judges call for submissions that "show care and imagination in their use of words, and illustrations which consistently match the nature and subject matter of the story", they are asking for an integration of art and narrative which is at the root of the greatest picture books, whether they be richly worked pieces like Caldecott's *Three Jolly Huntsmen* and Maurice Sendak's *Where the Wild Things Are*, or simply tales like William Nicholson's *The Pirate Twins* or Mary Rayner's *Mr and Mrs Pig's Evening Out*. These are touchstones in the art of the picture book and a few more like them will not come amiss in the present abundance.

The Times/Penguin Competition is open to anyone in the United Kingdom and Eire who has not previously had a children's picture book published or accepted for publication. Rules for submissions must be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to Penguin Books Ltd, 53 Kingsway Road, London, SW10 0UH.

Brian Alderson

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where telephone and...
outside London Metro

OPERA AND BALLET

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THE ARTS

Die Ermittlung
West Berlin

Paul Moor

The bizarre revival at Berlin's Freie Volksbühne of Peter Weiss's 1965 documentary play *Die Ermittlung* has created the biggest theatrical scandal in West Berlin since the world premiere of Rolf Hochhuth's first play *The Deputy*. Weiss's play appeared in English as *The Investigation*, but *Ermittlung* means precisely means "investigation". He took his material from a long drawn years ago which sought to ascertain the degree of guilt of a number of former SS personnel at Auschwitz, the biggest and most ghastly of Hitler's original extermination camps.

One of pre-Hitler Berlin's greatest theatrical innovators, Erwin Piscator, staged the

world premiere production (in this case, incidentally, with factually objective, letting the horrific testimony by Auschwitz survivors speak for itself. Thomas Schulte-Michels and his designer Susanne Thaler, in this new production, have taken off in quite another direction.

The auditorium remains empty. On the stage itself they have built what amounts to a two-storey circular night club of notable sleaziness. Across the ground floor an elevated runway, lit by a single floor-level bulb, connects two raised acting platforms on either side. The floor is covered with make-up and fancy clothes, and jewelry in the hair and the ears of some of the men leads a filip of perversity. The performers flit with the spectators, who sit at tiny tables on which they find glasses and spoils of a conspiracy.

Berolt Brecht made this sort of theatrical manipulation famous under the name of "alienation", and he employed

The lurid shadow of Auschwitz

it to telling effect on many occasions, especially in what he called his "teaching plays". Not even Brecht, though, ever dared play fast and loose with anything so appalling as the story of Auschwitz and of the six million murders committed there and in similar, smaller extermination camps.

These performers switch from role to role but without changing costumes, the survivor in one segment becoming the SS sadist in the next. In the first scene, the survivor is a young man, a member of a prosperous family, who is taken to a television quiz or talk show. Those playing the court officials punctuate survivors' testimony with superficial chattering, sipping

wine from one hand while gliding the other up a female thigh. In between segments song hits from the 1940s ooze from loudspeakers.

Thomas Schulte-Michels seems to have intended his staging as a savage attack against present-day West German indifference towards the issue of responsibility for all those murders, which now lie so far in the past. He first staged this play in his fashion last year in the Rhineland town of Moers (pop 103,300) where both audience and critics reacted so positively that the company there seriously considered touring and making a film of it for television. In sophisticated Ber-

lin, though, without warning, all hell has broken loose. Some reviews have defended the production's fundamental premise, but most have savaged it. As soon as they appeared, the chairman of West Berlin's Jewish community (unfortunately without apparently having taken the trouble to see the production for himself) demanded the cancellation of further performances.

Peter Weiss, himself half-Jewish, did not see the Moers production and did not attend the Berlin rehearsals or premiere, but he did, from his home in Sweden, leap to the defence of this production, of the Freie Volksbühne, and of

its beleaguered director Kurt Hübner, who already had head-aches enough before this current tornado struck. In a statement, Weiss spoke favourably of this "polarization" and "controversial discussion" he asked Hübner to relay to the performers his greetings and to give them courage, and he declared his "complete solidarity" with them all.

He concluded: "I can imagine this play staged differently, but from what I know about it I find this production completely suitable for our time. You have my complete confidence. Cancel? Under no circumstances!"

And so the show goes on. Hübner, who actively practises the courage of his convictions, tries to prepare his audiences for what awaits them and makes himself available for discussion afterwards. On opening night only a few people applauded, and then apparently as an automatic reflex action—just as some of them actually fell into Mr Schulte-Michels' little trap by

opening the champagne on their tables and sipping it during the exposition of this horrifying material. To what extent does Auschwitz remain with us in Germany today? By a grisly coincidence, one leaves the theatre to see in neon, directly across the street, the name of the firm which documented the shows bought the gold teeth and filling salvaged in the death camps. Survivors say they still have dreams—"all the time"—prompted by camp experiences from which they awaken screaming, thrashing and sweating, and from which they expect no success as long as they remain alive. It is this new production, it boils down to a question of taste, and *de gustibus, non disputandum* est. Thomas Schulte-Michels had, assuredly, the best, most admirable intentions. The individual spectator, in the light of his own experiences, must decide whether he also had commensurate taste.

ART GALLERIES

ROY MILES GALLERY

Exhibition of New Works

6 Duke St., London SW1

10th-12th April, 10.00-6.00

13th-15th April, 10.00-6.00

16th-18th April, 10.00-6.00

19th-21st April, 10.00-6.00

22nd-24th April, 10.00-6.00

25th-27th April, 10.00-6.00

28th-30th April, 10.00-6.00

1st-3rd May, 10.00-6.00

4th-6th May, 10.00-6.00

7th-9th May, 10.00-6.00

10th-12th May, 10.00-6.00

13th-15th May, 10.00-6.00

16th-18th May, 10.00-6.00

19th-21st May, 10.00-6.00

22nd-24th May, 10.00-6.00

25th-27th May, 10.00-6.00

28th-30th May, 10.00-6.00

31st May, 10.00-6.00

1st June, 10.00-6.00

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13th August, 10.00-6.00

Television

World in Action
Granada

Joan Bakewell

The cover-up provided for Nazi war criminals in the United States makes *Watergate* look like a high school prank, a classy affair of silly bugging devices and petty deceptions hopelessly organized by amateurs at the game. By comparison, the real pros were having real success. Ever since the war, the heavy battalions of the FBI, the CIA, the State Department, the Roman Catholic church and the immigration service have combined in an establishment consensus that there was to be no pursuit of Nazis in flight from postwar Europe. They were anti-Communists after all. That was the case argued and documented with *World in Action's* usual remorselessness.

In charting the postwar career of at least four of the most villainous, Artukovic, Trifa, Matkovski and Demjanuk, they had such an amount of appalling testimony that one could scarcely absorb one shock before being hit by another. Cardinal Spellman himself petitioned the immigration authorities on behalf of Artukovic, whose brutalities had exceeded those of the SS. Trifa, the perpetuator of a chain of pogroms, self-appointed head of the Romanian church in the United States, blessed the opening of the Senate under Richard

Nixon's vice-presidency. The FBI and CIA even hired former Nazis as agents. It makes those excuses about tapes look feeble.

In peaceful years, when public conflicts in Britain are marks are regularly given to the media for the flimsiness of balance: fair appraisal of both sides of the case, opinions freely invited for and against, neutral editorial stance. Granada's power house of polemic frequently eschews such dispositions and is criticized for it. Not here, surely. This was a densely packed yet clearly told and unqualified condemnation.

Yet the hotter the subject, the cooler the treatment. Appealing facts need no fancy phrases. *World in Action* has elevated the anti-techniques of surreptitious reporting into a house style. Packing their cameras away into boldalls and focussing through spyholes, they go hunting their quarry. For some reason the evidence they find is all the more convincing for being out of focus. Jump cut or with plenty of camera jolts and knocks. And in some surrealist reversal of reality the most convincing shots of all on Monday were those that were totally incomprehensible. The intrepid cameraman George Jesse Turner, chased by the killer of Treblinka, simply kept his camera running. I doubt if it will win him awards, but it convinced me. It may even provide fodder for James Burke.

Writers and Places

BBC 2

Stanley Reynolds

"If," Michael Hastings said, "I went along to the National Theatre and told them I would need 60 black singers and dancers they'd slam the door in my face." Well, you thought, they would not doubt slam the door in the face of anyone wanting a cast of 60, no matter what the colour. But Michael Hastings has a problem. He is a white man, a Jew, trying to write about the problems of the Blacks in Britain today. He said he felt sometimes as if he had the measles because no one wanted black plays by a white writer. Hastings' interest in the Blacks stems from his life in Britain. He moved there with his family in 1944 when it had a large Jewish community. He still lives in Britain as a viewer of BBC 2's *Writers and Places* series last night, Hastings knows the place like the back of his hand. Decked out with some marvelous stiffs of old Britain and a

lot of old music hall songs from the Cays when Britain was full of theatres and theatre people, Michael Hastings' *Writers and Places* was a very nice twinning of nostalgia and political propaganda. Perhaps propaganda is too emotive a word.

Hastings, however, is a militant working-class writer who has taken to championing the Blacks of Britain and young black writers like Eddie Mills, part of whose play, *Trouble in Brixton*, was included in last night's programme. The remark about the National came out when Hastings was talking about his old epic play about the life of the late Marcus Garvey, the black leader, founder of the Back to Africa Movement.

Hastings, who had his first play produced at the Royal Court when he was still a teenager, has a very good dramatic track record and you felt that his Marcus Garvey play would be produced somewhere soon. Hastings is a novelist and short story writer as well as a playwright, and, judging by his easy manner last night, he could very quickly become a television figure as well.



Conductor and leading lady... Bonyng and Sutherland

Beautiful music for a wicked woman

The first time Richard Bonyng conducted Donizetti's *Lucruia Borgia* in London was at a concert performance in 1968. The soprano on that occasion in the title role was not his wife, Joan Sutherland, but Montserrat Caballe, making her London debut. At tonight's gala at Covent Garden, where the opera has not been staged for nearly a century, Dame Joan ends by poisoning most of the leading members of the cast, including her son, Gennaro. She has played *Lucruia* in three other houses, first in Vancouver in 1972, then in Houston and last on the Sutherland home ground, Sydney. After the Royal Opera performances the Sutherland *Lucruia* goes to Rome next month. Did that Caballe evening not put her off the role?

Sutherland: For a short time, yes. She was wonderful that night, she spun out the lines exquisitely. And, I thought, I can't sing that opera. But of course Richard persuaded me. Bonyng: There are passages Montserrat does incredibly well and there are ones Joan sings supremely. I'm not going into detail, but oddly they are not the same sections. Perhaps we should amalgamate the two sopranos for *Lucruia* for the definitive performance.

Sutherland: If you split us down the middle and stuck us together again, darling, we'd still be a large lady.

The similarities between Donizetti's *Lucruia Borgia* and Verdi's *Rigoletto* have been

much commented on. Quite apart from the fact that both are based on Victor Hugo tragedies and both ran into trouble with the censors the core of each opera is formed by family love which verges on incest. Only the sexes are reversed: Donizetti tells of a mother's infatuation with her son, Verdi of a father's obsession with his daughter.

PARLIAMENT, March 25, 1980.

Imminent announcement of plans to compel trade unions to pay more towards the cost of strikes

House of Commons
It was not right that trade unions should be able to count on the taxpayer to support the families of strikers and the vast majority of the country agreed with what the Government proposed to do. Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry said, when deputizing for Mrs Thatcher at Prime Minister's question time.

Earlier Mr Reginald Prentice, Minister of State for Social Security had indicated there would be an imminent announcement about the issue.

Mr John Butcher (Coventry, South-West, C) said—A TUC report had indicated that trade unions spend an average 80p per member on strike pay and an average £2.2 a member on administration.

This supports the Government's contention that trade unions should be more responsible for their own members' welfare during times of strike.

Sir Keith Joseph—Yes. He is right. We do not want strikes to increase so that unions have money to spend on strike pay. We think it is only fair that when strikes are called unions should bear more of the cost than they do now.

Later, replying to Mr Dafydd Wigley (Caernarfon, Pl Cymru) he said the Government was satisfied that reasonable progress was being made in the legislative programme announced in the Queen's Speech.

Mr Wigley—The time is ripe to abandon the theories underlying the legislative programme. It is time to speak and to abandon the idea that you can starve men back to work by reducing social security benefits. This is time to reconsider the whole attitude towards creating employment.

Sir Keith Joseph—We believe

that our policy is the only policy that can achieve the underlying purposes of both sides of the House—more employment and better public benefits and social services.

We do not believe it is right at the moment that the trade unions should be able to count on the taxpayer to support the families of strikers while people are on strike. We think the vast majority of the country agree with what we propose to do.

The matter was first mentioned during questions to the Secretary of State for Social Security.

Mr Michael Meacher (Oldham, West, Lab) asked when the Secretary of State expected to be in a position to make a statement on the Government's plans to increase supplementary benefit entitlement to families of persons on strike.

Mr Reginald Prentice, Minister of State for Social Security (Davenport, C)—Shortly.

Mr Meacher—How many thousands of extra civil servants will be required to administer this proposal? How will union members and non-union members be differentiated? What exactly is the formula proposed to cater for unofficial and official strikers?

Mr Prentice—Each of these questions will be answered by the statement when it is made. James Hamilton (Bothwell, Lab) asked whether any local office that only one-third of strikers in my constituency qualified for security benefits. Would he ponder that statement and ensure that it did not make further incursions into an attempt to blackmail strikers back to work when there is no justifiable case for doing so?

Mr Prentice—The proportion of strikers' families in the steel strike drawing supplementary

benefit is much larger than this because of all the unions involved in the strike only the few general workers' unions have been paying strike pay. The cost to the taxpayer so far is £8m.

Mr Nicholas Budgen (Wolverhampton, South-West, C)—Our proposal may have the effect of encouraging people to join unions so that they may enjoy the benefit of support during a strike.

It may have the effect of encouraging the unions to concentrate on their legitimate role of trying to improve working conditions and wages and not to engage in improper role of trying to be a political party.

Mr Prentice—Our proposals will be seen to have many healthy effects, including those he has mentioned.

Mr Jeffrey Rooker, an Opposition spokesman on social security (Birmingham, Perry Barr, Lab)—If a strike is in progress, will his family be treated in the same way as the families of other prisoners in that prison at the time of the strike? Mr Prentice—We have no concern in this imminent announcement with the effect of a trades dispute, not the effect of a criminal.

Mr Andrew Bennett (Stockport, North, Lab)—What is the difference between someone on strike who is not a prisoner and someone who is a prisoner? Why should their families be treated differently in the payment of supplementary benefit?

Mr Prentice—Because we take the view, as does a majority of the general public, that if people go on strike either they as individuals or the community as a whole should bear the financial provision for the needs of the families in that situation. (A Labour shout of "Disgraceful").

Protests were made during Prime Minister's question time and later on points of order that the document from the European Commission, referred to during last night's debate on EEC budgetary matters by Mr Nigel Lawson, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, had not been laid before the House before the debate.

Mr Peter Shore, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, said the document was a disgraceful and deceitful and cowardly manner.

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, deputizing for the Prime Minister, told the House that the document was now in the Vote Office after the matter had first been raised by Mr Richard Douglas (Dunfermline, Lab) who said the document had been alluded to by Mr Lawson but not presented to the House.

The press of this country (Mr Douglas said) is inundated with the document and the Commission is specifically rejecting the gloss put on it by the Government.

Mr Michael Foot, deputy leader of the Opposition (Edinburgh, West, Lab)—The document is in the Vote Office today at 2.30. That is quite unsatisfactory for the House. Why was it not laid before the House last night? It was not laid before the House last night, particularly as the document has apparently been hanging around in Brussels and elsewhere since March 20?

Why did the Financial Secretary not produce the document in the debate and say there was some reason for not doing so? Why have another debate so that we can fully debate the document and enable the House to examine it?

Mr Keith Joseph—The document is in the Vote Office today at 2.30. It is the document only arrived from the Commission at the end of last week just placed in the Vote Office today.

Mr Peter Shore (Tower Hamlets, Stepney and Poplar, Lab)—Last night the House was subjected to a deceitful and even cowardly course of action. This document which is about the extent to which this night will continue to pay over to the EEC budgetary matters, particularly because it does affect in a considerable degree the amount of money that may be available to the Government in the budget tomorrow.

Will be ensured that Mr Lawson comes to the House and makes a forthright statement on this matter?

Sir Keith Joseph—The document is a useful contribution and can form the basis of a useful discussion. I take seriously what he said. I believe completely in the integrity of Mr Lawson who is on all occasions a vivid and vigorous speaker.

Earlier Mr Nicholas Winterbottom (Barnet, Lab) said one of the major planks of the Queen's Speech was genuine reductions in public expenditure. In order to achieve this the Government had to reduce substantially its contribution to the EEC budget.

Would he give an assurance that under no circumstances would the Government review our present position, bearing in mind that our membership of Europe prevents us from making any such reduction in the United Kingdom?

Sir Keith Joseph—On the first part the answer is an unqualified Yes. On the second, we very much hope the Government will understand the equity and force of our claim.

Mr Foot said later that the Opposition regarded the matter of the document as one of the most important. The debate last night had taken place, in a sense, on false pretences.

Mr Lawson should make a statement to the House today, as the

Opposition had assumed he might, or he should do so at an early stage.

We believe (he said) that the House has been misled by what happened last night and the best way for it to be cleared up would be if Mr Lawson made a statement now, particularly because it does affect in a considerable degree the amount of money that may be available to the Government in the budget tomorrow.

Mr John Bruce-Gardyne (Knutsford, C) said Mr Shore had made a personal allegation of cowardice against Mr Lawson which he thought was against the orders of the House. He hoped Mr Shore would be asked to withdraw the allegation and to make a statement. (Labour cheers.)

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) said he did not hear any allegation of cowardice. If it was made, he hoped Mr Shore would withdraw it. He was in the Chair last night when this matter was being debated and the Financial Secretary in his speech had alluded to the document.

He had said that if the document was being read then it should correctly and properly be laid. If it was being alluded to that was not then necessary.

Mr Harry Ewing (Stirling, Falkirk and Grangemouth, Lab) said the interpretation put on the document by the Financial Secretary last night was not only incorrect but also a distortion of the document. He hoped the Government would come forward with a statement at an early date.

What is the point of the document having a debate in this House on what is the most sensitive issue at present on our contribution to the European budget if we cannot have a debate on up-to-date position and document which should have come to this House, been published and available before this afternoon?

Mr Lawson—We have had a telephone call from Mr Lawson this morning asking if a secret document sent to the United Kingdom—(Labour laughter)—because the document that the Financial Secretary appeared to be telling the House about was not within their knowledge.

If that is the case, and it is clearly obvious that there is a major area of disagreement about the document between the EEC and the United Kingdom Government, then there can be no doubt that the House was deliberately misled.

The Financial Secretary is under an obligation to make a statement. (Labour cheers.)

The Deputy Speaker said that on frequent occasions when they might have debated the fact that the document was not available. Last night he was not aware that the document was not available. As to whether it was available last night or not or whether it should have been in the Vote Office was not a matter for him.

Mr Foot said Mr Lawson had not volunteered a statement and the only way in which the matter could be cleared up properly was for Mr Lawson to make a statement. If they did not have a statement today the Opposition would require it on another day this week.

Mr Nicholas Winterbottom (Macclesfield, C) said that it would be in the interests of the House for the Government to come forward with a statement at an early date.

from its economic burden as it remained a member of the Community.

Mr Russell Johnston (Lancashire, Lab) said this House should not be in a position where it is not clear what the Government's intention is. He said that the Government's intention was to act illegally.

To withhold VAT would be an infringement of the law. They were not only infringing the law but also infringing the Community but contempt for the institutions of the law.

Sir Brandon Rhys Williams (Kensington and Chelsea, Kensington, C) said Britain should aim at the restructuring of the CAP, not just the abolition of the CAP, but the restructuring of its principles.

Farm workers on the continent deserved sympathy just as much as those in this country. More emphasis should be placed on the responsibility of national governments to deal with the social problems of their own agricultural industries.

Mr Enoch Powell (South Down, DUP) said Britain must state its intention. The Community remained in its present form structure incompatible with Britain's economy and constitution, to withdraw from it in due form and on its own terms.

That statement would be the beginning not of a quarrel but as a necessary base and beginning of a genuine negotiation whereby Britain's relationship with the rest of the Community would be transformed to mutual benefit.

Mr Douglas Jay (Barnet, Lab) said there could be no relief for this country

Commission document 'can form basis of solution'

There was no way in which the imbalance in the United Kingdom's EEC budget contribution could be made good by expenditure on the Community's regional or social funds or any of the existing funds, Mr Nigel Lawson, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, said early today in the House.

He indicated that the EEC Commission's document, which was laid before the House last night, was a last resort find it necessary to withhold part of the United Kingdom contribution in order to achieve a satisfactory settlement.

Britain had made it clear to the Italian Government and other partners in the Community that the European Council should be consulted at the earliest possible date, Mr Nigel Lawson, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, said when opening the debate on the Community budgetary matters.

The Government had just received a new document from the Commission which would be laid before the House. The new statement of the Commission would be an important step forward towards a solution of Britain's problems and it would help the Government to achieve the reduction in public expenditure and public borrowing which were essential to the Government's economic strategy.

It was too early to say what programmes might be objected to, although the Commission had put forward some ideas and the Government were pursuing them with the Commission.

At least not greater than the receipts, and furthermore to ensure that there is a commitment to the Community's regional and social funds, Mr Lawson said. The document would bring about a significant reduction in the proportion of spending on the Community's regional and social funds, particularly by reducing the production of surplus over the whole Community, and would support the Government's aim of reducing public expenditure and public borrowing which were essential to the Government's economic strategy.

There was no doubt that the Commission's proposals could, given the political will among the member states, form the basis of an adequate and acceptable solution.

Mr Peter Shore, Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs (Tower Hamlets, Stepney and Poplar, Lab) regretted the absence of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, because there was a crucial link between Britain's contribution to the European budget and the United Kingdom Budget he would present on Wednesday. That link was a heavy gold chain, represented about £1,000m.

The present tax system was absurd and put the United Kingdom in a permanent position of clawing back what had already been conceded.

Britain's expenditure should be at least not greater than the receipts. It was out-bluffed, out-manoeuvred and out-faced on this issue—deliberately and cynically chosen as the main battlefield for redress—it would lose credibility in its future dealings with the EEC.

In later stages of the debate, Sir David Walker-Smith (East Hertfordshire, C) said that only rationalization of the CAP could secure an improvement of Britain's position. He did not believe Community spending in the United Kingdom could ever be a satisfactory alternative to a restructuring of the CAP. At best it was a palliative.

The proposed procedure by way of a Council regulation would entail a step in the direction of a centralized Community

control—a step towards what was usually termed in the House as a "centralized Community".

Mr Robert MacLennan (Caithness and Sutherland, Lab) said the Prime Minister had made it clear that he did not secure her objective she intended to act illegally.

To withhold VAT would be an infringement of the law. They were not only infringing the law but also infringing the Community but contempt for the institutions of the law.

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Minister to look at transplant code

Dr Gerard Vaughan, Minister of State for Health, told Mr John Farr (Harrow, C) that he was ready to consider the wording of the code of practice for the transplantation of human organs relating to the anonymity of donors.

Dr Vaughan (Reading, South, C) said: I am sure the House shares Mr Farr's concern at the distress caused to a family in his constituency. I note that when he introduced his Bill he told the House that he had consulted the Press Council. I am sure that is the right method of pursuing this matter.

Mr Farr—Would the minister recognize, in the light of recent events, that the code of practice is couched in casual terms. Would he ensure something more stringent is written into the Health Services Bill now before the House?

Dr Vaughan—Yes, I can understand this point of view and will certainly have a look at the wording and see if it needs strengthening.

NHS drug bill running at £740m a year

A suggestion that private patients should get drugs on the same basis as NHS patients obtained them was rejected by Dr Gerard Vaughan, Minister of State for Health, today.

Mr Richard Alexander (Newark, C) had asked how much it would cost to allow private patients needing drugs to get them on this basis. Dr Vaughan said the Government was already spending £740m a year on drugs for NHS patients. Because the department does not maintain records of the number of private patients, I cannot give a specific figure.

In any event, with so many competing claims for scarce NHS resources at this time, the Government does not feel it can give a high priority to this proposal though it has carefully considered it on several occasions.

Mr Alexander—The private patient pays as much to the NHS as does the NHS patient, so it is only fair that he should be able to get drugs on the same basis.

Dr Vaughan—I appreciate his feelings but I am sure the Government will not do so.

Parliamentary notices

House of Commons
Today at 2.30: Budget.

House of Lords
Today at 2.30: Debates on forestry and life-science prisoners.

Travel to work

Mr Peter Rees, Minister of State, Treasury, in a written reply, said it is estimated that the current cost to public funds of making rail and bus fares to and from work allowed about £270m.

More than 400 schools offering assisted places

House of Lords
When the report stage of the Education (No 2) Bill was resumed Lady Bird (Lab) for the Opposition, moved an amendment to the Bill to require the Secretary of State to report annually to Parliament on the number and names of the schools participating together with details on the pupils, cost of the scheme and fees charged by the schools.

Lady Young, Minister of State for Education and Science, said the assisted places scheme was intended to replace the old grant school scheme. When this was phased out by the former Labour Government, there were few parents who did not express regret at something which had made a notable contribution to education system.

There are (she said) thousands of parents who send their children to the maintained system who care deeply. The provisions of this Bill, both on school governance and on the right of parents to express a choice together with the appeal system, are designed to give some of the opportunities currently enjoyed by those children who go to independent schools.

The latest figure for schools which had expressed an interest in participating was 468. These were 120 former direct grant grammar schools, 338 independent schools, one direct grant school, and nine maintained schools.

Provisional figures of the number of places on offer totalled 5,894 for boys and 5,315 for girls, as well as 1,923 at mixed schools. It was the Government's intention that there should be equal numbers of places for boys and girls and that there should be a proper geographical spread of these places.

The Government was completely open about its proposals. They would stand up to public examination and there would be an opportunity for a review of the scheme in the next year. The education services which were provided for in the Education Act, 1944. There was nothing to prevent the Government from reviewing the scheme. The amendment was unnecessary.

The amendment was withdrawn.

An Opposition amendment requiring schools participating in the assisted places scheme to have received a satisfactory report by her Majesty's inspectors was rejected by 142 votes to 52—Government majority, 60.

Libyan school in Chelsea not to get diplomatic status

School premises bought by the Libyan Embassy in Chelsea would not be granted diplomatic status, Lord Bellwin, Under Secretary for the Environment, said in a written reply to Lord Chalfont (Ind) today.

Lord Bellwin—The Government did not regard schools as being premises of diplomatic missions. Lord Chalfont had asked whether the school was being used for purposes of diplomatic missions. Lord Bellwin—As I understand it, the Libyan Embassy has bought the school for educational purposes. The school was sold by the Inner London Education Authority last year to a third party who in turn sold it to the Libyans.

This is a matter of essentially local interest and as such is for the local authority to decide. It is not for the Government to decide. Lord Chalfont—Does it mean indulging in mischief and causing trouble all over the place? He had better keep his eye on the ball.

Lord Bellwin—I do not know how they define educational purposes. It is for the local authority to decide. The responsibility (he said later) for keeping an eye on the use must be for the local authority.

Campaign against social security abuse

The attitude of Labour MPs to social security abuse suggested they were on the side of the scrounger rather than the honest taxpayer, Mr Reginald Prentice, Minister of State for Social Security, said amid protests during question time.

Mr Jeffrey Rooker, an Opposition spokesman on social security (Birmingham, Perry Barr, Lab) had asked what was the latest estimate of the extent of social security abuse.

Mr Prentice (Davenport, C) replied—The nature of most social security abuse is such that we can only know about cases which are detected.

However, new records have been introduced which should, over the next few months, provide fuller and more accurate estimates of the extent of social security abuse.

I shall make a further statement to the House when a sufficient number of these records have been received and analysed to enable me to draw worthwhile conclusions.

Mr Rooker—That being so, how can he square the statement that the extent of social security abuse is £200m loss by social security abuse.

How did he get the figure of £200m? He has no reliable reports on this? Will he confirm that officials of his department were ringing around large repairment stores and asking them for an

Campaign against social security abuse

estimate of theft and that was how they conjured up the figure?

Mr Prentice—There is no need to ring around repairment stores to know that they and other large commercial organizations assume losses through fraud of 1 or maybe 2 per cent in their operations.

Applying that to the £200m loss by social security abuse, we are attempting by this operation this year to save at least £50m.

If Labour MPs think that cannot be done, they had better get up and state their case because their constituents will not believe them.

Mr David Stoddart (Swindon, Lab)—The figures that have been bandied around repeatedly are sheer bogus figures. (Labour cheers.)

It is not disgraceful that figures should be produced by a department of state should owe more to the experiences of Marks and Sparks than to the House of Commons. The figures should be taken out of the public. They want to take those who try to check the system identified and prevent them from doing so.

As for snooping on neighbours, I have made it clear I am not appealing for that at all. Some information has always reached the DSS from members of the public. It is genuine, some malicious gossip. That information has and has always been followed up, but I am not in any sense asking for snooping.

There is a great deal more to be saved and I am sure that the next 12 months will prove it.

Mr Austin Mitchell (Grimsby, Lab)—Would it not be more cost-effective to employ extra staff to deal with tax evasion rather than the counter-productive risk of mounting social security benefits?

Mr Prentice—I would be against fraud and abuse in any sector of our public life. I would expect Labour MPs to take the same attitude, but their attitude suggests that they are on the side of the scrounger against the honest taxpayer. I am not a socialist, but I am a Conservative.

Mr William Hamilton (Central Fife, Lab)—I was approached last weekend by an employee of the DSS who said he was being asked to bring on them to produce the answers that he needs on this matter.

Mr Prentice—The overwhelming majority of DSS staff take the law very seriously. They want to take those who try to check the system identified and prevent them from doing so.

As for snooping on neighbours, I have made it clear I am not appealing for that at all. Some information has always reached the DSS from members of the public. It is genuine, some malicious gossip. That information has and has always been followed up, but I am not in any sense asking for snooping.

Mr Robert McCrindle (East of Scotland, C)—Would I opportunity to repeat: has given instructions to move gently and to those people who are I am sure that the security before attempting to perpetrators of fraud?

Mr Prentice—The gul has been sent out in the area of fraud and abuse any sense acting in a would be offensive to majority of claims which they are entitled.

Mr Stanley Orme, chief spokesman on social security (West, Lab)—It is a pity to compare the 1 firms such as Marks and in this regard? Can he have sent out a man to offend people after a statement an dwill be evidence of the gul's attitude? He will make Mr Prentice—On the sent out to staff. I answer I gave a mo There has been no privacy, the comparison and Spencer's was by Mr Labour MP, not by me. Any large organiza there is a loss of this Labour MPs are saying think the loss in the DSS is less, then I am hear their reasons for se

interest of those most directly cost. They had produced a balanced package reflecting an understanding of the needs of the farm sector and of the political reality of the community life.

If that balance is upset (he said) by the Council of Ministers, spurred on by the Parliament, settling for something different and less rigorous, such a decision will put at grave risk the continuation of the Community's agricultural policy in its present form.

Unless they could find a solution to the problems of the milk sector, they would have no solution at all in their agricultural decisions. They could expect an increase of 2 per cent in milk production next year, adding to the burden of cost beyond the 4,000 units of account of 1979 (about £2,800m).

He had risen from 1,200m units in 1975, an increase of nearly four times in four years. On those figures, the Community budget was bleeding to death from a surfeit of milk.

It was the reason the Commission had added to the co-responsibility levy of 1.5 per cent which the Council had agreed in principle. A supplementary mechanism for milk. That innovation took nothing from existing producers, a safeguard for the future, leaving decisions on future production to producers.

With it, they could face the future with greater confidence. Without it, the prospects for their milk policy were bleak.

EEC budget bleeding to death from surfeit of milk: need to control misuse of resources

European Parliament
Strasbourg
If the Council of Ministers, spurred on by the Parliament, settled for something less rigorous than the Commission proposed for farm prices, it would put the continuation of the CAP at grave risk, Mr Roy Jenkins, President of the Commission, warned. On the figures of the cost of maintaining milk surpluses, the Commission budget was inevitably bleeding to death from a surfeit of milk.

Mr Jenkins was speaking in the continuing debate on proposals for a 7.9 per cent increase in farm prices, in reply to Commission proposals which would mean an average price increase of 2.4 per cent.

Sir Henry Plumb (Cotswold, ED) chairman of the Agriculture Committee and former President of the NFU, said that the Parliament's decisions, if implemented by the Council of Ministers, could have an effect on the livelihood and wellbeing of millions of producers, food processors and merchants throughout the Community. The decisions taken must, therefore, make economic sense for taxpayers and consumers.

The committee had decided that the increase should meet the farmers' cost increase of 7.9 per cent which was well below inflation levels.

Mr Elise Woltjer (Netherlands, Soc) said that the problem was increased price would benefit bigger farms more than smaller farms. The co-responsibility levy should be phased, therefore, to

come more from bigger farms than smaller farms.

Mr Finn Olaf Gundelach, EEC Commissioner for Agriculture, said that the common agricultural policy could collapse unless it did not make the right decisions. He advised a middle course between an abrupt decline in farm incomes and treating agriculture more favourably than the rest of the economy. They must, however, tackle the problem of milk surpluses.

When the Parliament rejected the budget, one reason appeared to be milk surpluses expenditure. The Commission proposals contained significant alternatives to price increase so as to help small farmers.

All were convinced, including farmers, that market imbalance was most crippling in the milk sector. They had already done their utmost to use the milk surplus for overseas aid, rebelling quantities of skimmed milk powder for food aid since 1975, but the world's hungry demanded not dairy products, but cereals and rice.

They must face the brutal reality that measures taken so far had not proved capable of turning off even the increase in milk production.

The 7.9 per cent price increase proposed was divorced from reality. While the uncontrolled increase in farm prices, plus products continued, the Community would have the money to

develop new policies nor tackle the income problems of poor farmers.

This must be the year when the present misuse of resources was put to an end. The Commission must take control of the budget. Mr David Curry (Essex, North-East, Soc) said that his group was aware of the gravity of the situation in economic, constitutional and human terms, and particularly of the problems of the British farmer. The present situation was not normal.

Surpluses meant budgetary cost for taxpayers and consumers, particularly for the victims of economic circumstances, like redundant steel workers, shipbuilders and textile workers.

No guaranteed price or intervention, no exemption from the laws of economics in the market protected them. The group's proposed price freeze was put forward in recognition that it was the only practicable policy to bring order to the CAP.

They were often regarded as hard-hearted and hard-nosed towards social problems, but the problem of surplus would only be solved when people quit their land. They would not wish to provoke that except in a context of economic growth, some of which could be directed to the countryside in a fully-fledged rural policy.

The authority of Parliament would be irreparably damaged if they failed to face now the consequences of their action in the budget.

Mr John Mark Taylor (East Midlands, ED), group spokesman on the Budget Committee, called on the Government to sack its gurus and contain the cost of farm surpluses. The European Parliament was on the threshold of strengthening its position by direct elections in December. What was brave and right in December was brave and right now.

The Community had shown in the past 30 years that it could do nothing but farm and it must be seen to be capable of doing more than that. Developing other policies. He was not anti-farmer but anti-surplus. He did not want to dismantle the agricultural policy but he wanted to put right what was economically wrong.

The answer was as classically elegant as it was simple—lower the price for surplus commodities and the surpluses would disappear.

Mr Neil Blaney (Ireland, Ind) asked why farmers should be asked to bear the brunt of trading agreements and of aid to developing countries.

Mrs Barbara Castle (Greater Manchester, North, Soc) said that the capacity to build up the country was astonishing. Money was running out and the Community was going bankrupt. It was not a year ago that it was going bankrupt. It was not a year ago that it was going bankrupt. It was not a year ago that it was going bankrupt.

reduce them, higher prices did not benefit the farmers who most needed it but reduced the surplus position and made the surplus position worse. Mr Gundelach appeared to have lost his political nerve since the last time he had proposed a price freeze on products in surplus.

They needed a price reduction for products in surplus to make the surpluses disappear. Prices should reflect the cost of production of the farmer. The smallest non-viable farms should be supported for social reasons through direct aid.

Mr Noel Davern (Ireland, DEP) said that the Commission price proposals were unjust, insensitive and short-sighted. They should reduce the United Kingdom's budgetary problems to become the pretext for undermining the CAP.

Mr Pierre Franchère (France, Comm) said that they were serving the cause of rural development. A budget which was cruel for farmers.

Mr Kent Kirk (Denmark, Ed) said they could not tell the farmer not to produce more and also tell him he must not make more from what he produced.

Mr John de Courcy Ling (Central Midlands, Ed) said he feared that Ministers would again let the Parliament down as they had done in the past. He was not responsible of M. Chirac to suggest that country which did not accept the chaos he had created should be the Community.

Although the CAP had defects they did not want to destroy it

but to build something greater because the interest of the Community as a whole was greater than that of one sector.

Mr Kenneth Collins (Strathclyde, East, Soc), chairman of the Environment Committee, said that agriculture policy in the Community was too expensive and too important to be left to farmers alone. There was no justification for a price increase this year.

They might have to find new ways of funding agriculture in order to protect small farmers and rural communities from unemployment and poverty.

Mr Roy Jenkins, President of the Commission, said that the Commission proposals for a 7.9 per cent increase in farm prices of January 31 must be seen as a coherent package designed to improve and safeguard the CAP.

He said "safeguard" advisedly because unless the main essentials of the package were accepted, their agricultural policy would be exposed to the most serious risks.

In the last four years, the budgetary cost of the policy had increased by an average of 25 per cent per year.

Price and production increases in recent years had not resolved some of the basic income and social problems of the rural population: nor had they succeeded in removing or even significantly reducing disparities within agriculture.

The Commission proposals this year represented an effort to redirect the CAP in the long term

interest of those most directly cost. They had produced a balanced package reflecting an understanding of the needs of the farm sector and of the political reality of the community life.

If that balance is upset (he said) by the Council of Ministers, spurred on by the Parliament, settling for something different and less rigorous, such a decision will put at grave risk the continuation of the Community's agricultural policy in its present form.

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The Parliament's decision to reject the 1980 budget was a demonstration of the need for a more significant role in the Community's making process. Now was the time to honour that decision. If they now voted on a budget which would be undoing the work of the last year, they would be undoing the work of the last year. They would be undoing the work of the last year.

Others will draw the conclusions (he said) if you nobody solve nothing, the basic issues untouched unfurled your standard: but, it would be up again. To do so would inevitably undermine the newly-earned credibility Parliament.

Mr Andrew Gwynne (Scotland, Lab) said that the Commission had a light touch on the budget. The Commission should not now the branch of the tree of it had then so insisted on the Commission to sit.

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Does civil defence claim too much?

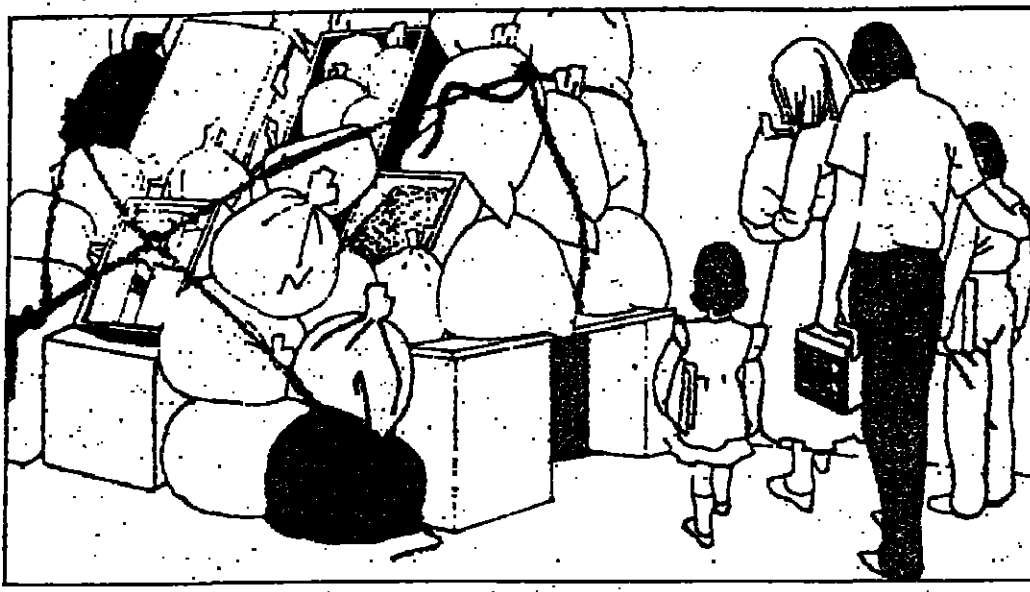
Recent months have seen a major revival of interest in civil defence, reflected most notably in *The Times*. Grizzly details of how Britain could or could not cope with nuclear bombardment and excerpts from the do-it-yourself guides to survival prepared for distribution at a time of crisis have now become common media fare. After years of discontent over the indifference of successive governments, those responsible for civil defence have at last achieved a serious, high-level policy review.

Much of the current concern is over ensuring that the "whenever" is available for executing existing plans (for example it is alleged that when the booklet *Protect and Survive* should be being circulated the authorities will be waiting for it to be printed) and assessing the adequacy of stockpiles of essential commodities. The main issue is whether sufficient funds can be found for reasonable and modest reforms.

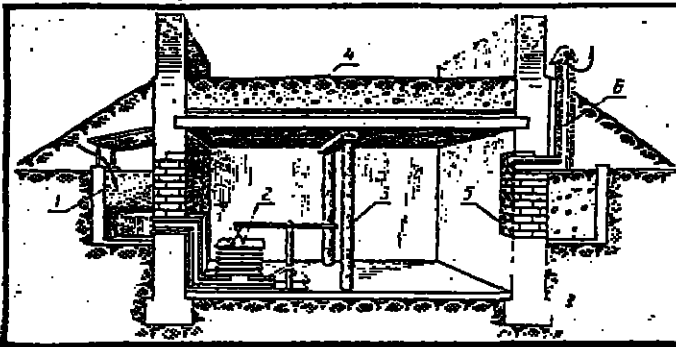
However, among those advocating a greater national effort in this area, some are agitating for a large-scale programme of construction, public education and, possibly, preparations for mass evacuation. It is claimed that such measures could significantly reduce the number of casualties suffered by Britain in a nuclear war and, in doing so, strengthen the deterrent by signalling a seriousness of purpose.

These claims need to be handled with great care. In a nuclear war the advantages still lie overwhelmingly with the offence. Passive measures to protect life and property are virtually useless to those caught in target areas. With vast expenditure might another our environment with reinforced concrete, burrow underground, disperse to the remotest parts of the kingdom and store huge quantities of foodstuffs and equipment. But for far less expenditure the enemy could make a mockery of all of this by increasing the number of attacking weapons, especially against a country so small, centralized and densely populated as Britain.

It is thus neither complacency nor an inability to distinguish between 10 and 20 million deaths that makes many



Above: the nuclear family ready for the worst, as seen in the booklet *Protect and Survive*; right: a Russian fallout shelter installed in a cellar, with sand filter (1), bellows for air supply (2), ceiling support (3), dirt fill (4), window openings sealed (5) and exhaust box (6).



doubt the value of a massive civil defence programme, but the ease with which the other side could negate its beneficial effects.

This assumes that the Soviet objective would be to inflict the maximum possible suffering. Civil defence really comes into its own when a different assumption is made—of only limited nuclear exchanges confined to a few key military targets. Here the main threat to most of the population would take the form of fallout, the radioactive dust generated by nuclear explosions which can be carried by the wind to otherwise safe areas, and against which it is possible to devise forms of shelter.

It is this why the most vigorous civil defence programmes in Europe are found in the neutral countries which

do not expect to be engaged in war themselves but could suffer greatly from an adverse change in wind direction. Recent moves in Nato have encouraged plans for selective, discreet strikes rather than all-out exchanges. Greater attention to fallout shelters would seem to be a natural complement to this approach. Unfortunately, the Soviet Union has shown little interest in Western ideas on limited nuclear war, there are grounds for scepticism as to whether the violence could be contained and, of course, Britain's own Polaris force is geared to attacks on highly populated targets.

Another condition generally recognized as improving the chances of civilian survival is plenty of warning time. Current British plans are often

derided as being over-dependent upon advance notice. However, it is unlikely that a war would start with some built-in warning. The question is whether the danger signals in a period of crisis would be recognized in time and acted upon.

Civil defence arrangements that would cause a major commotion might well be put off as being too provocative at a sensitive moment. This is one argument against plans for mass evacuation. Another is the fact that moving away from home may well increase rather than decrease vulnerability to nuclear effects. This would be no time to get stuck in a traffic jam!

The main source of warning of the imminence of nuclear war would be the outbreak of conventional war on the con-

tinued. Thus, further conventional forces would offer the possibility of resisting aggression without resort to nuclear weapons, and a longer period for preparations should this method fail.

Two conclusions can be drawn from this analysis. Civil defence does not offer a way of strengthening our deterrent by making a threat to wage a nuclear war more credible, because there is no way that such a threat could be anything other than a catastrophe beyond human comprehension. It would be unwise to foster illusions that even a massive investment could significantly alleviate the consequences of war especially if the enemy decided to compensate for this in its offensive plans.

A modest improvement in civil defence might make sense as part of a strategy based on enhanced capabilities to fight at the lower—and not the higher—rungs of the escalation ladder. If unfavourable comparisons are to be made with the extensive preparations in Austria and Switzerland, then it should be admitted that civil defence makes most sense of all for countries pursuing neutralist foreign policies in the middle of a potential war zone.

In the end, a civil defence policy reflects the relationship between the Government and the people. This point goes beyond the elite preserving itself while the masses fend for themselves, or noting the dangers of a mismanaged policy in encouraging the worst aspects of human nature which was once common in the United States, personal fallout shelters stocked with guns to keep out desperate neighbours.

In a totalitarian society, such as the Soviet Union the Government can attempt to bolster popular morale through an elaborate civil defence organization, with lectures, exercises and ambitious plans for evacuation. In a democracy, more honesty and openness is required on the reality of the risks facing us all if the worst ever came to the worst.

Lawrence Freedman

The author is Head of Policy Studies, at the Royal Institute of International Affairs.

Bernard Levin concludes his examination

remarkable book about religious experience

A challenge for the non-believers

It is a truism (though, as I have so often pointed out, the most marked characteristic of a truism is that it is true), that Sir Alister Hardy put it in the book I was discussing yesterday, "The spiritual side of man is not the product of intellectualism". Sir Alister knew as much before he set up the Religious Experience Research Unit at Manchester College, Oxford, but in *The Spiritual Nature of Man* (OUP), in which he gives a detailed account of the Unit's analysis of the first 3,000 accounts of such experiences sent in, he goes on from where the truism leaves off. In the 10 years since the Unit was established, its researchers have continued to appeal for these records from members of the public, and have had what must be a gratifyingly large response. The question, however, remains: of what use has the collection of accounts been, the way in which it has been made, and the way in which individuals have experienced what they feel (there is no attempt by the Unit to circumscribe the definition) has been in some sense a religious experience?

One day I was sweeping the stairs down in the house in which I was living, and suddenly I was overcome, overwhelmed, saturated, with a sense of most sublime and living LOVE. It was not only a feeling, but a sense of being brought to LIFE. The brush in my hand, my dustpan, the stairs,

seemed to come alive with love. I seemed no longer me, with my petty troubles and trials, but part of this infinite power of love, in a way I have never heard of; it can happen once, never to be repeated, or again and again; and of course it can be accepted or rejected.

Mostly, of course, it is accepted, though against "acceptance" may be anything from a passive agreement that it happened and that it can only be satisfactorily explained on one hypothesis, to a radical transformation of the subject's entire life. One theme, however, that recurs in a significantly large number of the reports is the feeling that "nothing" here for tears, nothing to weep or knock the breast; again and again, the men and women (and children) who have had these experiences report that flowing from them came a certainty that all was for the best, and some of them are more specific, saying "Since then I have been quite unable to fear physical death" or "From that time on I've never been afraid of death".

In a sense, that says it all. But some say it in greater detail. My daughter Joan was killed by car when she was seven years old. She and I were very close and I was grief-stricken. She was lying in

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Ronald Faux

Allegro con brio to save the Scottish Symphony

Will the outrage of eminent maestros and ordinary concertgoers in Glasgow save the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra? The argument so far appears to have achieved only a short breathing space. All reasonable proposals will be considered before April 17, but everyone seems suddenly to be aware that the orchestra deserves far more credit than it has received for its quiet excellence. The chance of the SSO achieving widespread popularity has always been frustrated because much of the orchestra's work is in studio; in the public ear, but not the public eye.

Most of the output is broadcast on Radio 3 or Radio 4, and little is heard on Radio Scotland. Yet it is BBC Scotland who pays the SSO's bills, and it is evident that BBC Scotland can no longer afford that patrician role. The mantle of patronage has turned into an albatross for a broadcasting service required to trim £1m from its £14m budget.

No one wishes to see the

The musicians generally believe that the answer lies with the financial mandarins of the BBC. By abandoning plans for a couple of local broadcasting stations in England... the financial problem could be solved

orchestra disbanded and 69 musicians released on to an already crowded market, but accountability appears to dictate artistic tempo, although the exact manner in which the SSO is accounted mystifies even senior members of the Scottish broadcasting community. The blunt fact is that BBC Scotland is seeking someone else to pay the orchestra's annual running costs of £500,000 or more.

The alternatives suggested so far do not augur well. Merging the SSO and the Scottish National Orchestra into one major symphonic group sounds attractive (Gulf Oil's £250,000 sponsorship of the SNO sets new levels of munificence) but it is not considered practical.

To be workable, the new orchestra would offer only 25 jobs to SSO players. A total merger would restrict the new orchestra to the Usher Hall, Edinburgh, the only venue big enough to take such a giant. The repertoire would barely extend beyond half a dozen weighty works.

More serious would be a decision by the SSO to go independent. The arrival of yet another orchestra on the Scottish scene seeking the backing, sponsorship, and a grant aid of industry, local authorities and government would hardly be greeted with enthusiasm by the contenders already in the ring.

A BBC official admitted: "Frankly, I doubt whether the market would stand another large group joining in the scramble for funds. The Scottish Chamber Orchestra is newly embarked on a career independent of Scottish Opera, which has now appointed its

own orchestra. The Scottish National Orchestra seeks sponsorship and the Scottish Baroque Ensemble really fills in the rest of the market. I doubt that the SSO would find many friends among musicians if it sought to join in."

The musicians generally believe that the answer lies with the financial mandarins of the BBC. By abandoning plans for a couple of local broadcasting stations in England which do not yet exist in favour of a symphony orchestra which does, the financial problem could be solved.

They believe a more commercial way can be found of operating within the BBC framework, and that the commercial potential of the SSO is not being realized.

"If the orchestra became independent it has the quality to survive—but only at the expense of others, in the short term, at least," an orchestra member said. The orchestra would have to play to the box office and would lose much of the opportunity to introduce new works, new conductors, and new soloists. Its essential teaching role would be severely reduced, and it would have to travel outside Scotland to earn

a living—the usual Scottish prescription for success," he added, sourly.

Perhaps if the orchestra is saved it should operate on a different basis. A group which does most of its work in a studio faces considerable artistic dangers and cannot command a live and personal following so easily. The SSO feels itself hamstrung by not being able to compete in the public concert market and by not having the resources to move from its Glasgow base to more than occasional appearances elsewhere. The full cost of public concerts has to be covered by box office receipts and there are limited means for promotion or the more aggressive marketing methods which others employ.

"The taps are very smoothly being turned off for us. The licence fee was set too low, and inflation is running too high. The SSO and other regional orchestras have been caught in between," one player complained. It was the accountants and planners who arranged the BBC spending who had pushed the orchestra into such a vulnerable position. They should tell the orchestra out of it, he thought, prestissimo.

Ronald Faux

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The snag about those 'bargains'

Misleading bargain offers are supposed to be illegal, but search diligently in the columns of this newspaper and it is not impossible that you will find one. The snag is that having a difficult time applying the Price Marking (Bargain Offers) Order 1979.

Since July 2 last year it has been illegal, though few people seem to know it, to advertise imprecise and potentially misleading price claims such as "up to 50 per cent off", or to suggest that anything is worth more than the price at which it is being sold.

I looked through the advertisements in the three quality newspapers last Saturday. The *Times* carried at least three advertisements which were in direct contravention of terms of the order, and a couple more whose legality was doubtful. One offered "up to 50 per cent off" typewriters, another "save up to 40 per cent" on furnishing fabrics, and a third "you'll save £££ by buying" at "trade prices".

The *Guardian* ("save ££s on shop prices"; "nearly half normal price"; and "why pay 50 per cent more?") provided another five examples, including one advertisement for mower sharpeners which offered twice, and a sixth which despite circumspection rendered it almost meaningless was probably still on the wrong side of the law.

The *Daily Telegraph* yielded five clear cut examples too, including a dressing gown selling at £12.95 but claimed to be "worth over £20" and Swiss watches "only £19.25" to

day's manufacturers prices over £200."

As a further check on the present standards of advertising I asked Miss Rosemary McRobert, assistant director of Consumers' Association and a member of the Advertising Standards Authority, to analyze advertisements in the three Sunday colour magazines.

As a result she will be challenging a total of 16 advertisements—nine from the *Sunday Telegraph*, six from the *Sunday Observer*. In most cases she will be seeking substantiation for various claims the advertisements made, but four advertisements involve further evidence breaches of the bargain offer legislation.

Mr Charles Little of the advertising scrutiny department of the *Times* said yesterday: "You would be amazed at the amount of copy we turn away, though with bargain offers it is clearly up to the advertiser to make sure that what he says conforms with the law. Part of the trouble is that nobody comes down on these people when they are caught out. If we let everything through, we would probably only get complaints about one in 100. It is not much encouragement."

That hackneyed view of the Chancellor as he leaves No 11 and raises the despatch box on Budget Day will be varied this year. BBC cameras have been allowed inside so they can shoot him from behind.

Current prices

London has the highest electricity prices in the country. Very soon they will be higher still. When the first round of

electricity price rises take effect on April 1, London's prices, already 5 per cent higher than the average elsewhere, will be going up by about 18 per cent, compared with a national average increase which is 11 per cent lower.

When the second round of increases already in the pipeline emerge, the details are likely to show a total average increase in London's electricity prices of more than one quarter in the single year.

There are two reasons why Londoners appear to be getting a less than fair deal. One is the Government's financial target demanding a rate of return equivalent to a profit of 12 per cent a year. This has been set, without variation, for every

electricity board in the country, and takes no account of the fact that the London Electricity Board has social, technical and financial problems all its own.

The second, in the opinion of the London Electricity Consultative Council, the independent watchdog in this field, is that the LEB is simply less efficient than other boards.

A year ago the LEB chairman conceded that it still cost a lot more to run the London board than it should. We are taking a close look at everything to see where economies and greater efficiency can be obtained. The consultative council says it has had no firm evidence of internal savings since.

The *Times* is not the only great national organ to be moving to new technology. *Hansard* will shortly be forking out metal and letterpress printing for the brave new world of visual display units, computer typesetting and offset lithography. If all goes to plan, it will be moving into a new building near the Elephant and Castle in October. The size of *Hansard* will change, to A4, but the format will remain the same and, most important of all, the typeface used will still be Times Roman.

That is average haul of £250 per burglary, which, less the £20 for the average recovery rate, means "a net gain of £230 per job, less overheads". As each burglary is reckoned to take 15 minutes or less, "the rate for the job" is £900 per hour.

Mr Snow concluded: "There are, of course, disadvantages. Nearly one third of males in Her Majesty's prisons are there for burglary, a quarter for theft and handling stolen property. Also, in many other occupations, the job opportunities are greater abroad. Though everyone in Britain can expect to be burgled at least once in their lifetime, the pickings are richer in the rest of Europe and America."

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Party's over

Impressed by modesty where I thought none existed, I noticed that Searchi and Searchi omitted their best-known and most successful client from recent advertisements boasting about the advertising agency's successes.

They say they decided to devote the space to newer assignments, and longer-established accounts like the political party they helped back to office were therefore left out. But of course it could also be that there are no more political accounts like that one around to be attracted by advertisers' advertisements.

Burglary rate

Who says crime doesn't pay? Not Chief Superintendent Arthur Snow, director of the Home Office crime prevention unit. Mr Snow, helping launch a Design Council exhibition aimed at making us lock up more effectively, recorded that some 250,000 homes were burgled in 1978, and 563 million worth of property stolen. Only 8 per cent was recovered.

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Shocking bill

There is an anomaly about legislation intended to protect customers from being faced with unexpectedly high bills in restaurants which can defeat the object of the exercise. Restaurants are obliged to display their prices inclusive of VAT at the door, and they have to give notice of any minimum and service charges there,

too. The anomaly requirements also extend to the me at the table, so you way it is still a bill that come shock.

Thus a colleague his bill for a meal at a restaurant in Road grew magic to £61. The rest 70p a shared cover per cent VAT. There was a these things on handed round at I had the complaint agement pointed notice had been menu by the door, paid scant attention way in.

There was an awkward session at the Fields with the other night. The one, now retired, interviewed by Hare while at intervals a Gobbi's recordings by an unseen disc. "And now, gentle, 'some Verdi' piano accompaniment, the baritone awkward silence, unmistakable. Put alone on the stage, Gobbi drummed grunted at the sn called over the sh cannot help you. I my records."

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New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

FAITH AND BELIEF

enthronement of a new shop of Canterbury is an n that requires the Church land not just to welcome man to lead it but also to s its order of priorities. are three purposes that urch as an institution must have in mind: to preach spel both to its own mem- id to the unconverted; to itness in its social activi- that Gospel, to be a i of good works as well faith; to organize itself, ially and in its rela- ith other Churches, as to the other two objectives. Church will never realize l potential if it fails to mportance to all three of purposes, but in recent it has seemed to accord too high a priority to the and third. It is poor y to the power of the n, faith if Christians can- operate effectively with oter, but perhaps too me and mental energy n devoted to the develop- y synodical government, pursuing schemes of reunion with oter that have not yet come ing. Similarly, there is a now that the ordination en will be another issue il prove too great a diver- t these questions matter, t to the exclusion of the 's central purpose.

equally important that the should demonstrate its to the Gospel by doing t can to relieve the suf- in the society around it, social work, the urge to

minister to the practical needs of the secular world, absorbs too high a proportion of effort there is the risk of the Church seeming to be little more than the greatest of the voluntary organizations.

The principal purpose of the Church must be to preach the Gospel, and to do so in ways that will seem relevant to the world today. This is not a call for liturgical gimmickry, or for self-conscious attempts to keep up with the latest manifestations of youth culture. It is rather a plea for intellectual substance. The intellectual foundations of Christianity have been undermined, in appearance though not in fact, for more than a century. Yet if the essential message of the Church is not believed everything else it does is either a waste of time or something that others could do equally well.

In some of his remarks since his appointment was announced Archbishop Runcie has placed a welcome emphasis upon intellectual substance. Yet, if this course is followed, there is a contrary danger of which he showed himself to be fully aware in his enthronement address yesterday. How can a Church that is concentrating upon the intellectual substance of its message, avoid becoming a narrow sect? Can it stress the importance of doctrine without becoming narrowly dogmatic. "We are tempted", he declared, "to organize ourselves like any other party or pressure group, to establish sharper dividing lines between those who are members and those who are not, to compete more aggressively for the attention of the public, to

recruit new members with a strident self-confidence which suggests that we have nothing to learn, to persuade with a loud voice rather than with the quiet reason of the heart."

The dilemma is a real one, but the answer is probably to be found in the nature of religious belief and in the traditions of the Church of England. The truth of Christianity cannot be proved as if it were subject to the laws of natural science. Faith must always require the leap in the dark, but it is a leap that can be aided by the intellect: not just the heart, but quiet reason, too.

This approach to religion is in accord with the traditions of the Church of England. Sometimes they have led to a distinct worldliness, more recently to what has seemed to be close to humanism in a cassock—and indeed there were portions of Archbishop Runcie's address yesterday in which his admirable desire for a dialogue with all people of goodwill seemed to verge in that direction. But at its best the Church has been true to the definition offered by Bishop Creighton in 1899: "the formula which most explains the position of the Church of England is that it rests on an appeal to sound learning." It does not seek to prove its propositions with mathematical precision, but to put its propositions in a form which does not defy the intelligence of learned men. In an age that is becoming progressively more open to religious speculation, it is still important that belief and reason should not be seen as being in conflict with each other.

THE MARTYRDOM OF AN ARCHBISHOP

under on Monday night of scar, Arnulfo Romero, the shop of San Salvador, is king event, and not only e of the outstanding quali- the man. It also shows the stupidity of the assassins, appear to think that they fle the claims for simple which Mgr Romero ed by an act of violence sort. In fact his murder ly hard attitudes in El r still further and lead e bloodshed. Salvadoreans d hoped that some sort of l reform would be poss- last October's coup, e promises which were ade, are bound to be disillusioned. Even Monday's shooting, the appeared to be slipping civil war, because of ice on the right to the s which are badly needed, e growing strength of the revolutionary movements. urder of Mgr Romero, who ed peaceful reform, has t nearer.

is killed because he had e a symbol of the need man rights and social Since his appointment in, then, ironically, the mili- vement of the day had ed him as a man who e cause them trouble, Romero had become a figure in Salvadorean e weekly sermons in the al of San Salvador, ly broadcast by the

Catholic radio station, was widely listened to. He used them to denounce acts of repression by the armed forces, of which there have been all too many in recent years, and to advocate social change. Obviously he was a thorn in the side of successive governments, and particularly resented by the armed forces. He received many death threats. But until now the position of the Roman Catholic Church in El Salvador, and his own personal standing, had protected him.

El Salvador is a country in which a great part of the wealth is held by a few families—the "Fourteen Families" according to tradition. Pressures for land reform were resisted for many years; the last, big uprising was a peasants' rebellion in 1932, which was brutally put down by the army with something between 10,000 and 20,000 deaths. Since then the armed forces have been in control, and the economic interest groups have been able to ensure that there were no radical changes. The prospects suddenly improved with last October's coup, when younger officers took over and promised reform. This brought civilian politicians, many with progressive views, into the government. But the new junta found that, whatever good intentions it might have, it was not able to put them into effect because of resistance from the armed forces and the right, so that the leftists left the government.

Since then a new junta has been formed, with the participation of the Christian Democrats and the active support of the United States, which is anxious about developments in Central America in the aftermath of last year's revolution in Nicaragua and is trying to promote reform. A far-reaching land reform programme has been announced and the banks have been nationalized. But violence and killings continue, many of them carried out by the security forces.

Mgr Romero's standpoint was that of a committed churchman, in line with the contemporary doctrines of the Catholic Church in Latin America. He gave a cautious welcome to the government set up after the October coup, and then became critical when violence continued. He was sharply critical of the United States for acting to support repressive policies in El Salvador. He also implied that, though he advocated peaceful reform, when all else failed change might have to come about by violent means, through the revolutionary movements of the left. It is not surprising that he made enemies in the heated atmosphere of Salvadorean politics, where the right tends to regard all pressures for change as communist-inspired. But his murder is not going to still the pressure for reform, and ensures that his memory will live on as an inspiration.

CHANGE IN THE AFRICAN BALANCE

establishment of an indepen- Zimbabwe under a ate black nationalist ment will, if Mr Mugabe's atic policies are con- ed and successful, produce e-up in relationships in from the Cape to Somalia. ed civil war in Rhodesia. have kept a group of over- d economies on the edge skdown. A new prospect is g up, and it could be able.

ediately, both Mozambique mbia have been relieved e edge of disaster. Zambia d most from the Rhode- ad Angolan wars which ally blocked all her outers sea apart from the Chinese- anzam line, whose capacity he first was disappointing which is now decrepit. a's copper should flow ingly to its markets along its med routes through Beira uth Africa.

both President Kaunda esident Machel the restora- f Zimbabwe's agriculture s normal productivity es to abate the threat of s and unrest; the influence hel may be seen in the y Mr Mugabe has given to ring the white farmers and ing exports. The political uence of this is important: lessen the dependence of three upon President re's leadership. Not only yerere largely inspire the rhine Presidents" in work- e Rhodesian solution, e even diverted maize to f them despite Tanzania's rowing food shortage. They beheld to him; now they holly their own men.

sident Nyerere, besides g the frontline presidents sisting on Mugabe's vic- last year ejected President from Uganda, where he

still has nearly 20,000 troops in a law and order role. He proposes to withdraw them before long, but their presence has given him a large measure of control and veto over President Binaisa (his own nominee) even in cabinet reshuffles. (Just as Tanzanian troops in the Seychelles safeguard the socialism they installed there.)

Nyerere's influence has thus been far reaching, but it is waning and not only in Africa. For President Binaisa is also struggling for independence. This month he visited Kenya to show it. Ostensibly he wished to discuss the smuggling of coffee into Kenya, the need to improve road and rail links and the anarchy in the pastoral regions which afflict both countries. But he also certainly discussed with the Kenyans the possibility of a reconstruction for Uganda which would not be tied to the (increasingly unpopular). Tanzanian presence and allegiance to Nyerere's ideological leadership.

The Kenyans watch sardonically as Tanzania, shored up as it has been by western and international aid, seeks desperately for new loans and credits. But, after soliciting world bank assistance, Dr Nyerere repudiated (and still does) its conditions as infringing "our cherished policies of socialism and self-reliance". In effect he is demanding that his socialism must be funded and underwritten indefinitely by the capitalist west; to rub the argument in, he has refused to compensate Lomho for the nationalization of its assets, though indeed he has no money to compensate anybody, even if he felt the obligation. Now, however, his socialism's failures, combined with drought, have threatened Tanzania with famine as much as anarchy and drought threaten Uganda.

Kenya, on the other hand, faces all Tanzania's problems of import and oil prices, but with a flexible mixed economy, meets the impact of world recession from a far better position. It is now obviously the better partner for Uganda, or perhaps one should say that Kenya offers the best gateway through which aid to Uganda can flow; and Binaisa has already begun to restore Asian and foreign assets to their owners. The real obstacle to an aid programme is the continuing breakdown of law and order, which exacerbates the other tribal and political divisions of the post-Amin aftermath.

It may be said that this is the moment to revive Uganda's earlier informal ideas of a Commonwealth force. That idea is strengthened by the success of the Commonwealth monitors in Zimbabwe. Uganda presents a different task, but the instrument has proved itself. Kenya made a contribution in Rhodesia, and now Zimbabwe itself will, like Nigeria, have efficient troops to spare. The cost of reconstruction in Uganda will be far less if it can be assessed in an atmosphere of civil peace, such as a neutral force (with a training function) can supply. Britain's contribution would have to be limited, but it could again set the tone.

The border between pragmatic Kenya and socialist Tanzania remains closed, a symbol of Kenya's isolation. But perhaps Tanzania is destined now to change places with Kenya. Africa needs practical measures rather than ideology. Nyerere's services in Uganda merit recognition, but events are calling from him, no less than from other African leaders, a re-examination of his position and beliefs in the interests of his own suffering people.

Withholding of VAT payments

From Sir Andrew Watson
Sir, Now that we have a legally qualified Prime Minister who is not averse to being asked to expect a greater respect for our treaty obligations?

It surely offers little encouragement to our citizens to respect our municipal laws if our head of government announces his intention to flout the Community laws by which we have so recently agreed to be bound.

It will be interesting to note the reaction of the Commissioner of Customs and Excise towards all those who now threaten to suspend their VAT payments pending a resolution of their dispute with the Inland Revenue. One suspects he may show them that in the long run such threats carry no weight and do not pay.

Yours truly,
ANDREW WATSON,
Tetlow House,
Newbold-on-Stour,
Stafford-upon-Avon,
Warwickshire,
March 20.

From Mr Owen Warnock
Sir, It seems that for the United Kingdom to withhold its VAT contributions from the EEC would be to break the law. If this is indeed so, I am disturbed that both the Government and the Opposition should accept it as a legitimate tactic in the negotiations to reduce our share of the Community budget.

There are occasions when to break the law is a justifiable response to tyranny; we have surely not yet been driven so far. What causes my concern is that it has to be a very proper tactic to try to demonstrate why such a flagrant breach of the law is justified. The United Kingdom Government voluntarily submitted to the EEC legal system; most of the inhabitants of Britain had little choice but to accept domestic laws. It would be ironic if the result of this "law and order" government's contribution to respect for the law would be to make the British feel morally free to flout it. Of course that will not be the result: we will be a law-abiding people and ashamed at our government's example.

The United Kingdom complains constantly and self-righteously about the French illegalities over lamb imports; it is hypocrisy for the Government to threaten to withhold VAT unless at the same time it states clearly why this is not against the law.

Yours faithfully,
OWEN WARNOCK,
13 Ashley Village,
Coldharbour Lane,
Fenchurch,
Brixton, London SW8,
March 21.

Changes in planning law

From Mr F. J. C. Amos
Sir, Your correspondent Mr Gay (February 29) charges Mr Switzer (February 29) with manufacturing controversy, but then proceeds to commit the same offence himself.

The effect of the changes in the planning law referred to in these letters is to let district councils always have their way in matters of development control except where there is a right of appeal against a refusal of permission.

It is true, of course, that the majority of development proposals only have local implications and may be dealt with very adequately by district councils. However, there are always some proposals which individually or collectively may seriously undermine the purpose of the overall county policies and plans for the area but which may, nevertheless, be highly attractive to the district concerned. If a district council decides to grant permission, there is nothing which the county council or the inhabitants can do.

Is it really in the public interest that local views should always override the wider community interest? Superficially, county policies and plans may seem remote and obscure, yet through the structure plan procedure county proposals have been discussed with people in all parts of the county so far as is possible, reflect their views and aspirations. As a result, counties have done much to secure an orderly development of town and country and to protect and enhance the environment.

The legislative proposals affecting development control and the approval of local plans will allow a headstrong district council to disregard these wider views and have its own way.

Mr Gay seriously suggests that to planning law?

Yours faithfully,
FRANCIS J. C. AMOS,
Honorary Secretary,
The Royal Town Planning Institute,
26 Portland Place, W1.

Falkland fishing

From Mr G. White
Sir, Mr Johnson asks (March 22) for Government help to discover whether there are fish around the Falkland Islands.

I can tell him that the last international football match of any consequence played in southern latitudes was Falkland Islands versus Poland. I stood among some Polish ladies giving support to their team. The truth of the matter is that about 1000 general East European fishing crewmen call in the outer harbour of Port Stanley to unload at one or more of their factory ships.

The kind people of Stanley, as sporting as they are sensible, can assure Mr Johnson that the fish these travellers catch are very good eating. What neither these orderly patriotic fishermen nor I can understand is why HUR, but not Warsaw or Moscow, needs confirmation that there are tons upon tons of fish around the islands and that every facility can be arranged for British fishermen. Every facility, that is, other than the likelihood of an easy win on the Stanley football pitch.

Yours faithfully,
G. WHITE,
C. March Drive,
Caversham,
Reading.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Against a reduction in child benefits

From Professor J. E. Meade, FBA
Sir, To reduce public support for the family by economising child benefits has undesirable effects both for the relief of poverty and also for economic incentives. Finding support out of low wages for children is a main cause of poverty; and the payment of child benefits is for this reason a main weapon for the relief of poverty.

Unlikely unemployment benefit, supplementary benefit, and various public expenditure which are paid to the parents regardless of their earnings; and for this reason their development in replacement of these other social benefits for children removes a main disincentive to earn at the lower end of the income scale. Their finance is expensive; but there are few forms of public expenditure which are advantageous for incentives as well as for social welfare.

Yours faithfully,
J. E. MEADE,
40 High Street,
Little Shelford,
Cambridge,
March 23.

From the Director, Child Poverty Action Group
Sir, Ronald Burt's case for the de-indexation of unemployment and other social security benefits (March 20) rests largely on the assumption that these benefits currently set as a major disincentive to work. He does not, however, produce any evidence in support of this assumption. Official figures, in fact, show that hardly anyone is better off out of work than in work, although it is true that there is a larger group who stand to gain only a few pounds on return to work, especially if they do not claim all the means-tested benefits available to them. But a DISS analysis of actual cases concluded that "this financial disincentive is only one of a number of factors and that it does not in itself deter more than a small proportion from seeking and finding work. The availability of jobs is the crucial factor, and personal factors are also important."

To the extent that there is a problem of disincentives, the DISS civil servants argued that "the solutions lie in increasing the income of those in work, not in cutting the real value of benefits."

Unfortunately, Ronald Burt misunderstands the role that child

benefit plays here. Far from being a package of benefits which for some people actually make it more worth while not work than to work, child benefit, in the words of the Conservative Research Department, "has an important part to play in increasing work incentives. This is because an increase in child benefits helps the employed family but not the unemployed family (because an increase in child benefit is matched by a corresponding reduction in unemployment or supplementary benefit)." Furthermore, child benefit is not taxable which strengthens Mr Burt's argument that it should be viewed in the same way as personal tax allowances.

A truly "courageous" Budget would make cuts in government expenditure (which includes the "hidden welfare state" of tax reliefs and exemptions) at the expense of the benefit-off who benefited from last year's Budget in order to make it possible to protect the poor from the ravages of inflation and unemployment.

Yours faithfully,
RUTH LISTER,
Child Poverty Action Group,
1 Macklin Street,
Drury Lane, WC2,
March 20.

From Professor C. V. Brown
Sir, Your leading article today (March 24) is incorrect when it states: "Because child benefits are not means-tested they do not deter the individual from working more for himself and hence are raised without any disincentive effect."

People at work will wish to work less if child benefit (or any other element of unearned income) increases. This has long been known to be true if people value extra leisure (the "income" effect of intermediate economic texts) and has now been confirmed by a large number of empirical studies in the United Kingdom and United States.

The argument may be easier to grasp intuitively if we consider the effect of not raising the benefit. Families will be worse off in real terms and will need to work more to maintain their previous living standards.

This argument of course leaves open the question of whether child benefit should have its real value maintained when living standards are falling.

Yours faithfully,
C. V. BROWN,
Ben Loyal,
Chalton Road,
Bridge of Allan,
Stirling,
March 24.

Attitudes to Iran

From Dr A. Afroz
Sir, I wish to protest very strongly against the article headed "Why Iran needs a new leadership" in the West, a new strategy", which you published in your issue of January 25, 1980.

In the first place, I think Mr Temple-Morris might have declared his interest, as the son-in-law of the late Khosrovi Alam, a close associate of the deposed Shah, before admonishing your readers not to "gossip through Western eyes about the Shah's past."

Secondly, I feel that you, Sir, by publishing an article of this type designed overtly to undermine the integrity and independence of a well-recognized government, are failing short of the standards of your profession and abusing the freedom of the press.

I should not normally bother to answer such a spiteful and contemptible article. But I am anxious to show that we Iranians still respect the sanctity of the British press, and that we count on the public to try sincerely to recognize the noble values and humanitarian goals of the Islamic Revolution under Imam Khomeini's leadership, whose message gave birth to the Islamic faith and faith of early Islam, and to shape the true image of Islam for the benefit of all mankind.

In claiming that "the Shah has suffered enormous and unjustified vilification, even in the responsible press, as you have said little in his defence," Mr Temple-Morris is merely repeating what the paid spokesmen of that megalomaniac "figurehead" have always said. The fact is that the deposed Shah, who was the enemy of the Islamic faith, had stolen billions of dollars, has nothing to say in his defence.

Again, when Mr Temple-Morris writes "the Iranian Church simply does not have the capacity to govern," the Ayatollah Khomeini and Shariat-Madari, he simply reveals his own ignorance. The Iranian Muslim clergy are never called the Church. Their high standards, humanitarian and humanitarian goals of life are quite

different from those of the pseudo-religious communities called churches. They are completely free from such human failings as egoism and conceit. There is therefore no reason to expect a civil war, a military coup, or a successful counter-revolution. But evidently some people are unwilling to accept the patent truth that, despite the subversive activities of a small foreign-inspired and publicly disgraced group, our nation is wholeheartedly loyal to Imam Khomeini, and will by all means support the Islamic Revolution, whose victory has cost our people more than 70,000 innocent and noble lives.

Mr Temple-Morris is terribly mistaken if he really thinks that "the army is demoralized by the Revolution", and that the revolutionary guards "would not last long if confronted by any organized force". Our Islamic Army, which now has faith in God and not in the lunatic clown whom some call open-handed Aryamehr, is in every respect much stronger than ever; and the Revolutionary Guards who, with the strength of faith in God and sincere loyalty to Imam Khomeini, defeated the Pahlavi army, are now, with the support of the people, better placed than ever to confront our enemy. And I am sure Mr Temple-Morris was not reflecting the views of the wise and responsible authorities here in Britain when he wrote "we and the West may find ourselves faced with the eventual necessity of seizing the Iranian and perhaps other oil fields."

Finally I should like to add that the unpleasant nineteenth-century habit of meddling in the internal affairs of other countries has been out of fashion among the wise for some time now, even in the West. Undoubtedly there is from time to time a resurgence of it in quarters where one would not necessarily expect it. Could it be that some people are unable to reconcile themselves to the loss of credits and careers which are no more?

Yours respectfully,
A. AFROZ,
Chargé d'Affaires,
Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran,
16 Princes Gate, SW7,
March 19.

Ireland's entente cordiale

From Mr D. Kennedy
Sir, As every Irish schoolboy knows, the landing of General Humbert at Killybegs was followed by the rout of the Redcoats from Mayo. So competitive was the celebrity of their rout then and since has been celebrated by the title "The Races of Castletown". Humbert's army crossed the Shannon and was eventually defeated at Ballinacorney in Co. Longford in the eastern province of Ireland. A Longford man, Sean MacDonagh, avenged the defeat of Humbert in this century and Redcoats no longer run in Mayo or stand in Longford.

Mr Charles Haughey, a native of Castletown, may perhaps have mentioned Humbert in his tête-à-tête at the Elysee, and will no doubt have a more judicious opinion of French endeavours than your leader writer. Yours cordially,
DONAL KENNEDY,
46 Belmont Road,
Palmer's Green, N13.

Right to resign

From Mr C. Nettleton
Sir, I am as much against the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan as anyone, and I am in favour of boycotting the Olympic Games in Moscow. But

Sir Frederick Corfield (March 22) is wrong when he says that, in electing to choose a career in the service of the Crown, a civil servant undertakes loyalty to implement the policies of HM Government.

The only policies of HM Government which a civil servant is bound to implement are those which the Government has incorporated in written laws. Sir Frederick's mention of the right to resign can only mean that he thinks that, if a civil servant does something contrary to a resolution of the House of Commons which is not a law, he should resign.

I have been a civil servant all my working life. A civil servant does not undertake to implement Government policies. The fact that the House of Commons passed a resolution on March 17 that (inter alia) "the House... believed that the United Kingdom should not take part in the Olympic Games in Moscow" does not oblige civil servants, either legally or morally, to "implement the policies of HM Government." A civil servant is just as entitled to do as he pleases as anyone else, provided he does not contravene the Official Secrets Act or otherwise break the law.

Yours faithfully,
CLIFFORD NETTLETON,
11 Goddards Close,
Cranebrook,
Kent.

Government reform in Ulster

From Mr Jeffrey Dudgeon
Sir, In the absence of devolution the Conservative manifesto promised Northern Ireland local government reform. A charitable view of the now grounded Atkins initiative is that it was intended as a last attempt to find agreement on devolution before proceeding to implement the plans of Airey Neave. Assessment of the Republican strategy of political assassination is dependent on Mrs Thatcher's next move. If the process of integration is further impeded as it has been since Mr Atkins replaced Roy Mason the strategy must be judged successful. For it was the murder of Lord Mountbatten that brought the "initiative" to life and saw the Mason-Neave policies reversed. There is obviously no agreement on devolution, just as a legislature in Belfast is pointless and any contrived government structure is fuel to the paramilitaries, by virtue of its instability. Direct rule is popular and requires permanency through re-insertion of an upper servative Government cannot escape its commitment even if it must continue to pay lip service to some future return of Stormont.

It cannot have escaped the notice of the Prime Minister that external pressures have lessened. Senator Kennedy has failed to become the Democratic nominee for the Presidency and Mr Haughey's indifference to anything short of Irish unity obviates any concessions to Dublin. Though local government reform will be resisted by the SDLP and categorized as a return to Protestant ascendancy, it will be under the direct supervision of Westminster for the first time. The House of Commons would not tolerate discrimination or sectarianism.

Yours sincerely,
JEFFREY DUDGEON,
161 Dunluce Avenue,
Belfast 9.

Social service spending

From Mr H. W. Mellor
Sir, In referring to the "substantial contributions made to voluntary agencies providing residential care", Mr Hanson (March 7) overstates the case for local authorities. These contributions are made to help the resident pay the fees, and the voluntary body is doing the work. The authority would otherwise have the responsibility for, and generally doing it at less cost. It is only very exceptionally that payments are made to the organizations themselves, for example to extend or improve the homes they run. Only organizations are well aware of this, for it administrators a non-governmental fund that goes a little way towards stepping into this breach.

I am not one whose pastime is "denigrating public agencies", certainly not Mr Hanson's, nor do I maintain that voluntary bodies are alone in innovation and experiment: but I know that they often make a valuable contribution to local social services. They run on a shoestring, but they need that shoestring badly, and it is not good enough to confuse the issue by saying that "formal caring systems should not be relying on financial subventions from the public authorities". Families, neighbours and friends—the informal sector—are one thing; voluntary bodies are another. To make even a small cut in grant aid to the latter may mean the sacking of one of two paid staff, and could be lethal to the organization itself. Local authorities that make a marginal saving on their budgets by cuts of this sort need to be sure that this is what they intend.

The National Corporation for the Care of Old People has had the benefit of Mr Hanson's personal devotion to voluntary organizations, and would be sorry if his enthusiasm for statutory social services caused a misunderstanding of issues that are very important to the voluntary sector.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH W. MELLOR,
Director,
National Corporation for the Care of Old People,
Cuffield Lodge,
Regent's Park, NW1.

Natural highways

From Mr J. Liley
Sir, John Young, in an otherwise succinct article (March 20) warns us two old chestnuts: that the Rhine, and by inference other water routes, is a "natural highway"; and that moving goods by water is attractive only if the distances are great.

On the contrary, the Rhine has a fierce current, rock shelves and shallows and, in winter, ice and fog. That it carries so much traffic is through a willingness to build locks, dynamite the rapids and develop navigable canals. Other Continental waterways are entirely artificial, and much of the traffic short or medium-haul. Industry is attracted by their efficiency, and the public blessed by a stimulating spectacle which London and Nottingham, for instance, sadly lack. Lorry traffic and the destruction of town centres are not disconnected.

The condescension that John Young refers to stems from lack of publicity for Continental methods, and perpetuation of the myths to which I refer.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN LILEY,
Inland Voyages (Bookings) Limited,
14 The Birches,
Widnesham Town Centre,
Manchester.

From first base

From Mr Martin Higham
Sir, The chair in which I sit belonged to my great-grandfather Thorold Rogers (1823-1900). It is called the Gladstone (1809-1898) chair because it is known that he sat in it, as did Cobden (1804-1865) and Bright (1825-1899) though not of course at the same time. They probably all shook hands too, but I like to think that I am sitting in the seat of the misery.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN HIGHAM,
Crayke Castle, York.

Few people need reminding of the fact that last winter was the bleakest, most treacherous in years.

It was the winter of the burst pipe, the disappearing 'B' road, and everyone's discontent.

In the North of England, the conditions were nothing short of Arctic, when Clare Tapsfield, a local vet, set out on her daily calls.

It was the afternoon of 30th December.

The roads were more suited to a one-horse open sleigh than a 66 brake horse-power saloon.

As the good lady was soon to discover, when her car skidded on a patch of ice and disappeared into a drift.

Fortunately, Miss Tapsfield walked away without so much as a bruise.

Her car, however, had more than the odd dent to show for the experience.

In fact, the damage to the bodywork was such that it simply wouldn't budge.

With the result that the gallant 'Thorpes' of Thurgoland (the nearest garage for miles) were called upon to tow it away.

Once it was safely in their care, Miss Tapsfield promptly put in a claim to us, at Commercial Union.

Whereupon, we arranged to assess the damage personally, ourselves.

On the Tuesday after the New Year's holiday, our man muffled up, and set off on the rugged road to Thurgoland.

But before he could report his findings, he first had to find the car.

To help him in this simple

task, the garage kindly suggested he use a shovel, and point him in the direction of a six-foot snowdrift.

When he eventually dug Miss Tapsfield's car out of storage, he decided that it was a saving.

And we immediately agreed to settle in full.

Then all our man had to do was dig a path to the salvage truck.

A mere 20 feet away.

We won't make a draught out of a crisis.

Waiting for the thaw would have meant freezing the payment for Miss Tapsfield's new car.



Stock Exchange Prices

Day of waiting

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, March 24. Dealings End, April 11. Contango Day, April 14. Settlement Day, April 21

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

City Office
Hampton &
01-236 7851

1979-80				1979-80				1979-80				1979-80				1979-80			
High	Low	Stock	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price
BRITISH FUNDS																			
100.00	99.50	British Fund	100.00	100.00	99.50	British Fund	100.00	100.00	99.50	British Fund	100.00	100.00	99.50	British Fund	100.00	100.00	99.50	British Fund	100.00
COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL																			
100.00	99.50	Commercial Ind	100.00	100.00	99.50	Commercial Ind	100.00	100.00	99.50	Commercial Ind	100.00	100.00	99.50	Commercial Ind	100.00	100.00	99.50	Commercial Ind	100.00
COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN																			
100.00	99.50	Commonwealth	100.00	100.00	99.50	Commonwealth	100.00	100.00	99.50	Commonwealth	100.00	100.00	99.50	Commonwealth	100.00	100.00	99.50	Commonwealth	100.00
LOCAL AUTHORITIES																			
100.00	99.50	Local Auth	100.00	100.00	99.50	Local Auth	100.00	100.00	99.50	Local Auth	100.00	100.00	99.50	Local Auth	100.00	100.00	99.50	Local Auth	100.00
DOLLAR STOCKS																			
100.00	99.50	Dollar Stock	100.00	100.00	99.50	Dollar Stock	100.00	100.00	99.50	Dollar Stock	100.00	100.00	99.50	Dollar Stock	100.00	100.00	99.50	Dollar Stock	100.00
BANKS AND DISCOUNTS																			
100.00	99.50	Banks Disc	100.00	100.00	99.50	Banks Disc	100.00	100.00	99.50	Banks Disc	100.00	100.00	99.50	Banks Disc	100.00	100.00	99.50	Banks Disc	100.00
BREWERS AND DISTILLERS																			
100.00	99.50	Brewers Dist	100.00	100.00	99.50	Brewers Dist	100.00	100.00	99.50	Brewers Dist	100.00	100.00	99.50	Brewers Dist	100.00	100.00	99.50	Brewers Dist	100.00
INSURANCE																			
100.00	99.50	Insurance	100.00	100.00	99.50	Insurance	100.00	100.00	99.50	Insurance	100.00	100.00	99.50	Insurance	100.00	100.00	99.50	Insurance	100.00
PROPERTY																			
100.00	99.50	Property	100.00	100.00	99.50	Property	100.00	100.00	99.50	Property	100.00	100.00	99.50	Property	100.00	100.00	99.50	Property	100.00
INVESTMENT TRUSTS																			
100.00	99.50	Investment	100.00	100.00	99.50	Investment	100.00	100.00	99.50	Investment	100.00	100.00	99.50	Investment	100.00	100.00	99.50	Investment	100.00
RUBBER																			
100.00	99.50	Rubber	100.00	100.00	99.50	Rubber	100.00	100.00	99.50	Rubber	100.00	100.00	99.50	Rubber	100.00	100.00	99.50	Rubber	100.00
TEA																			
100.00	99.50	Tea	100.00	100.00	99.50	Tea	100.00	100.00	99.50	Tea	100.00	100.00	99.50	Tea	100.00	100.00	99.50	Tea	100.00
MISCELLANEOUS																			
100.00	99.50	Miscellaneous	100.00	100.00	99.50	Miscellaneous	100.00	100.00	99.50	Miscellaneous	100.00	100.00	99.50	Miscellaneous	100.00	100.00	99.50	Miscellaneous	100.00

20/11/150

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Atlas Copco
compressed air systems.
A force you can turn
into profit.

Stock markets
Index 430.3, up 3.1
Gilts 64.40, up 0.21

Trailing

1910, up 72 pts
ex 72.7, up 0.5

Llar

ex 89.7, up 0.1

ld

9.5, down \$25

ney

sterling, 181.181
th Euro \$ 19.191
th Euro \$ 19.19A

BRIEF

may buy German ernment rities

United States Treasury
yesterday that it
West German govern-
ment securities
current balances of
\$300m (£136m)
marks.

an official assets in
are now on deposit
West German govern-
ment close to the 7 per
cent rate. The United
aid possibly obtain a
aut rate on the non-
de securities.

output up

offshore crude oil pro-
posed to an average 1.66
barrels a day last
rom 1.60 million in
and 1.50 million in
1979.

decision delayed

ision on whether to
with the British
advanced gas-cooled
reactors for Heysham
est has been delayed
k by the Cabinet com-
n energy, but it is
to give approval.

Guthrie

Barby will be free on
bid again for Guthrie
ations group and Mr
ates, Guthrie joint
director reckons that
pay as much as it has
er to win.

profits down

profits at Reckitt &
he foods, toiletries and
he products group,
16 per cent to £51m.
The group blamed
difficulties in its
merican operations and
gth of sterling.

order

Academy de
tes Aereos (Sata) of
has placed an order
more than £3m with
aeroplane for a 48-seat
buprop 748. Delivery
place in June.

stocks up

production during
totalled 416 million,
liveries 364 million,
se to 695 million, equal
seven weeks' produc-
tion deliveries during
th averaged 287,000 a

restraint

North Carolina superior
is issued a temporary
order prohibiting
eroplan from acquiring
more stock or selling
in the Liggett Group.

Shell deal

he Italian state-owned
bons corporation is
ng an agreement with
the sale of paraffin
products from the
mica plant at Saline
in Calabria.

order

ein and Koppel, the
rman engineering com-
as won 200m Deutsche
 (£48.9m) order from
for four large bucket
cavators.

Abnormal stock levels and high interest rates depress industry

By Patricia Tisdall
Management Correspondent

Manufacturing industry's short-
term prospects have deterio-
rated in the last month,
according to the survey of
trends issued by the Confédération
of British Industry today.

Output is expected to dwindle
to compensate for abnormally
high stocks and sluggish de-
mand. Companies' profitability
and liquidity are under acute
pressure from high interest
rates and businessmen expect
little relief from the Budget.

Stocks of finished goods have
risen sharply in the last four
weeks, despite the steel strike.
Out of the 2,049 industrialists
surveyed, 28 per cent reported
that their stocks of finished
goods were "more than ade-
quate" in March, compared
with 24 per cent making the
same assessment a month
earlier.

The abnormal build-up of
stocks in anticipation of the
steel strike started in Novem-
ber. By December the per-
centage balance of manufacturers
reporting higher levels had
more than doubled to give an
index reading of 15 compared
with 7 in the preceding month.

The index remained stable
until February, when it climbed
to 16, and the latest survey
shows a further jump to 18
points, which compares with a
reading of only 2 for March
last year.

A downward slide in volume
of output has corresponded
with the increase in stock
levels. The latest survey
shows a further jump to 18
points, which compares with a
reading of only 2 for March
last year.

Looking ahead to the next
four weeks, 30 per cent of
manufacturers expected a
decline in output volume against

26 per cent who expected a
decrease a month earlier.

There has also been a drop
in orders in the last month,
with 51 per cent of manu-
facturers reporting that their total
order books were below normal.
In February the figure was 44
per cent.

Not surprisingly, the decline
in orders is most apparent for
companies in the "metal manu-
facture" sector. Export orders,
however, although they were
below average, remained fairly
steady.

There were big variations in
the export fortunes of different
industry sectors. The chemicals,
coal and petroleum sectors re-
ported relatively strong export
demand while that for textiles
was weak.

In a cautious introduction to
the survey, CBI economists
conclude that there has been
a weakening of demand for
British manufactured products
in the last month.

They add that "the impres-
sion of less strong world
demand is supported by the
movement of commodity prices
which have weakened notice-
ably in the last month, possi-
bly by more than can be
explained by the rise in world
interest rates".

Adding to the squeeze on
company finances caused by
high interest rates is the
divergence between wholesale
input and output price in-
flation. Wholesale output
prices rose by only 18 per
cent in the year to February
while input prices increased by
nearly 29 per cent.

Worsening prospects for an
early fall in interest rates
in the light of the latest bank-
ing figures have caused the CBI
to revise upwards the £6.750m
financial deficit it predicts for
the industrial and commercial
sectors.

NCB challenged over future of coal reserves

By Bill Johnston

National Coal Board estimates that Britain has
300 years supply of coal have been challenged in
a report published by The Royal Society.

The report is a collection of evidence presented
to the Commission on Energy and the Environ-
ment and concludes: "Serious doubts arise as to
the justification for the National Coal Board es-
timate of 300 years supply of indigenous coal. By
way of contrast the current operating reserves of
6,000 million tonnes lying at depths of less than
4,000 feet will be exhausted not much beyond the
turn of the century".

The report does concede that there are known
to be considerable quantities of coal at depths
greater than 4,000 feet but that none of the methods
known for extraction at these depths
looks economically promising.

Much of the controversy surrounding the fore-
casts of reserves in the United Kingdom would be
removed if the NCB and other bodies based their
estimates only on common classifications and
definitions, and if the data on which their estimates
were based were made publicly available, the
report says.

According to the society, to attain an annual
level of 170 million tonnes of production by the
year 2000, as proposed by the NCB's Plan for Coal,
poses problems of manpower and equipment.

As a consequence of a limited supply of man-
power and equipment, the report concludes that
an economy beyond the year 2000 in which coal
played a major role may best satisfy its energy
needs by importing coal. This is based on the belief
that a large increase in coal usage beyond 2000

would require large scale financial investment and
a programme for training scientists, technologists
and other skilled manpower.

The Society is, however, in no doubt that these
demands could not readily be met. It concludes:
"Large scale operations in Poland and elsewhere
are already producing coal at a price, after trans-
port to the United Kingdom comparable with, or
cheaper than, home-mined coal".

There were problems for the environment over
subsidence and the disposal of solid wastes and
mine waters. A policy in which coal imports played
a prominent part would help to relieve these
problems.

Other effects on the environment as a result
of open cast mining, feature prominently in the
report. It calls for more research at university
level on the reclamation of spoil disposal sites.

Import controls rejected

A firm rejection of the
philosophy of import controls
was made by Mr John Nott,
Secretary of State for Trade
yesterday. In a politically
oriented speech Mr Nott who
was addressing the Institute of
Directors annual convention in
London reiterated the Govern-
ment's policy of non-interven-
tion. He made it clear that re-
sponsibility for improved trade
would be left to industry.

He said it was businessmen
more than Government who
had direct control over employ-
ment. The message to the Govern-
ment from business before the
last election was for it to leave
industrialists alone to run their
companies and this is what it
had tried to do.

In answer to a question
about high interest rates, and
high exchange rates, Mr Nott
said that businessmen might
have to wait for some time for
a reduction.

With North Sea oil heading
towards 3 to 4 per cent of
gross domestic product an
improvement would only come
when interest rates fell. It could be 18
months to two years before we
begin to see a change", he
said.

In reply to a question asking
for more effective "anti dump-
ing" measures for textiles, Mr
Nott said that enforcement had
to come through the European
Commission. Even for the
troubled textile industry there
was no way the Government



Mr John Nott: boycotting
'overpriced' French wine.

would renegotiate the multi-
fibre agreement, which limited
imports, until its next expiry
date.

The type of import controls
recommended by Cambridge
University Industrial Society
would be disastrous. They
would oblige Britain to leave
the EEC and result in higher
demand as well as causing
retaliation from export markets.

Mr Nott who has a farm in
Cornwall said he was running
his own personal boycott of
French wine in retaliation to
the French attitude to British
lamb. "I will not drink their
liquor while they won't take my
lamb", he told delegates.

Other speeches, page 22
Business Diary, page 23

US curbs overshadow Paris talks

From Peter Norman
Brussels, March 25

Senior officials from the
treasuries and central banks of
the world's 10 most prosperous
countries, met in Paris today
against a background of mount-
ing concern that President
Carter's counter-inflation pack-
age could usher in a deep recession
in all Western countries
next year.

While it is generally recog-
nized that the United States
must get inflation under con-
trol, the very high American
interest rates and a strong
dollar are forcing other
Western governments to step
up greatly the stringency of
their own domestic economic
policies.

Senior European monetary

officials fear that the main
Western countries could find
themselves in recession at
roughly the same time in 1981.

Moreover, the prospects for
a subsequent economic recovery
are considered to be less bright
than during the recession of
1975 because of a higher under-
lying rate of inflation, reduced
scope for increases in public
spending, and less demand for
the West's manufactured
products from the Opec countries
as a result of the revolution in
Today's meeting of the Group
of Ten Deputies at the OECD
headquarters, was called to pre-
pare a meeting of finance min-
isters from the World's ten
richest nations that will be held
in Hamburg at the end of next
month on the eve of the meet-
ing of the interim committee

of the International Monetary
Fund.

Apart from electing Herr
Manfred Lamotte, the State
Secretary of the Bonn Finance
Ministry, the chairman of the
Deputies Group, today's meet-
ing was not called to take deci-
sions, but to carry out a
general review of world eco-
nomic and monetary affairs.

The Group of Ten deputies
apparently concluded that there
would be no immediate prob-
lems in financing the oil-
induced balance of payments
deficits of the industrialized
countries, although difficulties
could arise in the longer term.

Greater problems are
expected in dealing with the
payments deficits of the
developing world.

White House optimism on inflation

From Frank Vogl
Washington, March 25

A senior White House offi-
cial today greeted a bleak new
report on consumer prices with
the assertion that while the
past few months may be bad,
the same rise as January and
takes the annual rate, based on
the past three months, to 17.2
per cent.

Other labour department
figures show that real spend-
able earnings fell by 1.4 per
cent last month and that they
have declined by fully 7.3 per
cent over the past 12 months.

A critical factor in the level
of inflation has been the sharp
rise in mortgage rates, which
has possibly added more than
2 per cent to the consumer

economic committee of the Con-
gress followed figures from the
Labour Department showing a
1.4 per cent seasonally adjusted
gain in February in the con-
sumer price index. This was
the same rise as January and
takes the annual rate, based on
the past three months, to 17.2
per cent.

price index annual rate in the
past couple of months.
Some White House officials
state privately that they are not
as optimistic as Mr Russell and
fear that the peak inflation level
will not be reached until April
or May.

The recognition of sharply
rising inflation and interest
rates and the realization that
the United States may be head-
ing for a recession has
depressed Wall Street.

Stock prices fell dramatically
yesterday and even though
there was some recovery early
today and Dow Jones index has
fallen by over 40 points since
President Carter announced his
anti-inflation programme

Pre-Budget rush for consumer durables

By Derek Harris
Commercial Editor

Retailers were grateful but
puzzled yesterday at what
appears to be a jump in pre-
Budget buying of consumer
durables and other hard fur-
nishings in the home.

They were puzzled because
the Chancellor is not expected
to make any radical
changes to value-added tax.
Sales of spirits, wines and
cigarettes, items on which the
Chancellor has been widely ex-
pected to increase taxes, have
finally showed some sharp in-
creases over the past few days
but the rush does not appear
to have reached remarkable
proportions.

The Comet Radiovision dis-
count chain has seen sharp sales
increases in consumer durables
of every category in the past
week and Mr Richard Peers,
Comet's managing director, be-
lieves that after allowing for
inflation there has been at least
a 15 per cent increase because
of pre-Budget buying.

He said: "Our actual sales
increases have been far above

this but after allowing for our
recent marketing push and other
factors there seems definitely
to have been a pre-Budget
rush."

The rise in hard furnishings
sales has not been every re-
tailer's experience—Selfridges,
part of Sears Holdings' depart-
ment store chain, reported
less than average sales up but
"nothing special" on durables,
although returns from the John
Lewis Partnership's department
stores show marked increases.

In the week ended March 15,
the John Lewis stores saw radio
and television sales increase by
35.9 per cent compared with
the same period last year.

Speculation about the
Chancellor's likely increases on
duties for drinks and tobacco—
around £1 a bottle of more on
spirits—has been widely fore-
cast and possibly 10p on a
packet of 20 king-size cigarettes
—has brought people to the
shops this week. But Tesco
Stores reported an increased
demand but "not really a
popular buy."

BNOC shares sale plan delayed until autumn

Legislation to introduce pri-
vate capital into the offshore
interests of the state-owned
British National Oil Corporation
have been delayed at least
until the autumn of 1980 that a
share sale was expected to
raise will not be available to
affect the 1980/81 Public Sec-
tor Borrowing Requirement,
when it would have been of
most value.

In a reply to a Parliamentary
question yesterday, Mr David
Howell, Secretary of State for
Energy, said the Government
intended to carry out its inten-
tion of bringing private capital
into BNOC's North Sea opera-
tions, but in view of the full
legislative timetable it could
not be done in the present

session. Legislation would
however be introduced as soon as
possible.

Mr Howell has fought a
losing battle to find a way
through the complexities of
bringing in a Bill which would
create a separate North Sea
company in which shares could
be offered in time for negotia-
tions to take place over the
reassessment of participation
agreements so that a share sale
could be used to reduce the
1980/81 PSBR.

It would have been possible
to introduce a Bill to offer a
London and Scottish Marine
Oil-type loan stock which would
have had a royalty element
related to offshore production
quickly, but this would not
have reduced the PSBR figure.

Ninian helps Lasmo to £23m profit

By Adrienne Gleeson

London & Scottish Marine
Oil, which took over Oil Ex-
ploration last November and
secured its place as Britain's
fourth biggest oil concern,
yesterday announced a swing
from losses of £10.73m pre-tax
(including Exploration) in 1978
to profits of £23.44m last year.

The turnaround—to a figure
slightly higher than forecast
last November—was acquired
because the Ninian field in the
North Sea, in which Lasmo has
a 7.7 per cent interest, is now
producing oil.

With total revenues last year
up from a comparable £4.58m
to £63.99m, Lasmo has
started to make a profit. The
company incurred the huge
development costs of Ninian
estimated at £139m so far.
Early repayment of £8.8m of
unsecured bank loans brought
back borrowings down to
£48.7m at the end of December.

The group is continuing to
spend on the other oil explora-
tion ventures—in the North
Sea, the Philippines and
Sharjah—while it acquires
new Oil Exploration. In all,
capital spending amounted to
£30.5m last year, of which
£24.7m was attributable to
Ninian.

After a tax charge reduced
by a change in the method of
apportioning petroleum re-
venue tax, Lasmo produced a
surplus of £8.69m in 1979
against a deficit of £11.58m in
the preceding year. The surplus
has been applied in reducing
the accumulated deficit on
shareholders' funds.

Lasmo is expected to start
paying dividends on its ordi-
nary shares this year. Holders
of the Oil Production Stock issued
in 1976 as a "sweetener" to an
issue of loan stock to finance
the exploration programme,
received 11.83p (net) per unit
in 1979.

Financial Editor, page 23

Bowring bid escapes Monopolies reference

By Richard Allen

Mr John Nott, Secretary of
State for Trade, has decided
against a Monopolies Commis-
sion reference for the contro-
versial £235m takeover bid for
C. T. Bowring by Marsh &
McLennan, an American in-
surance brokers.

The decision means that Bow-
ring, whose interests also in-
clude the Bowmaker credit
finance group and Singer &
Friedlander merchant bank, has
lost a possibly crucial round in
its long-running battle to avoid
falling under American control.

Immediate stock market re-
action was mixed. Marsh dis-
shares 10p to 143p yesterday.

This is still about 16p below the
value of Marsh's cash and share
bid for the ordinary capital and
reflects the possibility that the
bid could still fall at regulatory
hurdles in the United States.

Marsh & McLennan is still
awaiting clearance to make a
formal offer from the Securities
and Exchange Commission,
while the American Justice De-
partment is understood to be
considering possible anti-trust
implications.

However, there is no doubt
that the American group saw
the possibility of a Monopolies
Commission reference as the
greatest obstacle to its take-
over ambitions. Marsh has dis-
counted suggestions that the bid

could be deflected as a result
of President Carter's anti-
inflation package or high bor-
rowing costs in the United
States.

Mr Gil Cooke, Bowring's
managing director, said yester-
day that he was "intensely
disappointed" by Mr Nott's
decision. He added: "We still
believe we have good reasons
for defending ourselves against
this bid and we are increasingly
concerned that the present price
offered is inadequate".

He said that despite some
strengthening in the value of
the dollar a drop in Marsh's
own share price had reduced
the value of the cash and

equity bid by more than 10p a
share since the American group
first announced its offer.

Although Bowring pur forward
several strong reasons
that it felt the United States
bid should be blocked in its
submissions to the Office of
Fair Trading, it is understood
that there was little support
for the group's case from other
parties including rival British
insurance brokers.

It is understood that in
recommending no action by Mr
Nott, the OFT had been swayed
by the fact that Bowring had
been openly considering pool-
ing its insurance interests with
Marsh before a rift in discus-
sions led to the takeover move.

Europe presses fibres case

By John Huxley

Man-made fibre producers
will meet European Commission
officials later this week to put
their case for anti-dumping
action to be taken against cheap
American imports.

The Commission is anxious
to avoid causing a further
deterioration in trade relations
with the United States. Wash-
ington trade officials are
already seeking compensation
of \$55m (about £25m) for con-
trols aimed at limiting synthetic
fibre imports into Britain.

Anti-dumping action against
European and Japanese steel
producers is also being con-
sidered by the United States.
M Jean-Louis Jouvet, direc-
tor general of the Comité Inter-
national de la Rayonne et du
Fibre Synthétique (CIRFS),
said in Paris yesterday that he
was confident temporary,
countervailing duties would be
imposed on American polyester
filament yarn within the next
few weeks.

8p off in cut price petrol war

By Nicholas Hirst

A petrol price war has broken
out in the north of England.
Independent garages not tied
to the multinational oil com-
panies are offering cut price
petrol at up to 8p lower than
the average price in the south.

The main petrol companies
in the United Kingdom, Esso,
Shell, BP and Mobil, are begin-
ning to feel the pinch, industry
sources say, and if price cut-
ting continues a return to the
price support system of 1977/78
when the multinational subsid-
ised their retailers is a
possibility.

But the slight glut of products
on the market is not expected
to be nearly as severe as it was
two years ago and could prove
a very temporary phenomenon.

Even so, the easy availability
supplies and the cut price deals
being offered by some refiners
in the United Kingdom, coupled
with the fall in day to day
profit margins on the Rotter-
dam oil market, have created a
markedly different situation to
that of six months ago.

The drive to a reduction in
prices, with some petrol stations
selling four star for as low as
114p a gallon compared to an
average 121p in the south, has
been helped by the tendency of

hypermarkets to use petrol as
a loss leader to attract more
customers.

At the same time petrol sales
have risen by 10 per cent dur-
ing the first two months, but
a fall in the overall sales of
petroleum products of 13 per
cent has kept supplies flowing
freely.

The price cutting in the
north is thought unlikely to
spread southwards. It is in-
fluenced by the proximity of
refineries and the easy access
of shipments from the Rotter-
dam market with the willing-
ness of the smaller United
Kingdom majors to compete for
market share.

PRICE CHANGES

wer 7p to 82p
UK 10p to 110p
10p to 143p
17c to 165c
10p to 236p

land 20p to 408p
51p to 512p
15p to 585p
15p to 490p
Gold 25c to 510c

THE POUND

	Bank	Bank
	buys	sells
\$	2.97	2.95



Former bank chairman on £51,000 bail

Signor Giordano Dell'Amore, former chairman of Italy's big savings bank, the Cassa di Risparmio delle Province Lombarde (Cariplo), was yesterday released on bail of 100m lire (£51,000).

Signor Dell'Amore, who is 78 and in delicate health, was one of 40 bankers and industrialists arrested in March 4 in connection with the embezzlement scandal at Italcasse, the central institute of savings banks.

GM move abroad

General Motors is considering setting up parts manufacturing plants in Peru and Yugoslavia, according to an American trade publication. General Motors would not comment.

Short time at Seat

Seat, the Spanish car manufacturer, faced with falling domestic sales and rising stocks, has asked for government permission to put most of its 31,000 workforce on short-time.

Honda venture

Honda is to produce general-purpose engines in Yugoslavia in a \$4m (£1.84m) joint venture with a Yugoslav agricultural equipment producer, making it the first Japanese car maker to operate in an East European country.

Oilfield shown off

China showed its newest oilfield at Rengui in Hebei province 94 miles south of Peking to foreigners for the first time yesterday. The field was first developed in 1975.

Du Pont patent claim

Du Pont has filed a 100m yen (£185,000) claim for damages against Nippon Gakki, a Japanese manufacturer of housing equipment which has allegedly violated a patent protecting Du Pont's building material used to make countertops and bathroom walls.

German prices up

The West German import prices index rose 1.5 per cent in February to 190.8, base 1970. This was a 24.3 per cent rise on the previous year and follows a 25.6 per cent rise in January over January, 1979.

Saudi oil minister dismisses environmental objections to nuclear power

Yamani call for unified energy policy

By Patricia Tisdall
Management Correspondent

A six-point strategy for an international energy programme which could "move our world away from the edge of an abyss" was outlined yesterday by Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the Saudi Arabian minister for petroleum and mineral resources.

Sheikh Yamani, who was a guest speaker at the Institute of Directors annual convention in London, criticized western business and political leaders for hesitation and indecision about finding an alternative energy source.

In a clear reference to nuclear power, he urged the removal of environmental constraints. The danger of energy shortfalls arising from dwindling oil stocks was, he implied, less than the hazards associated with the removal or at least the mitigation of constraints on the development of nuclear fuel.

"Although such a move can be a bit hazardous, it does not preclude a disaster, as commonly claimed. Impending energy shortfalls on the other hand would bring about a world catastrophe which could undermine world civilization", he said.

"Decisions must be taken now by the leading industrialized countries aimed at the intensification of a host of energy sources which occur in abundance and whose prospects look quite promising."

In addition to developing energy sources other than oil, the minister's programme involved greater energy conservation by industrial countries and technical and financial help to develop resources in energy-deprived areas.

Although energy sources such as coal and hydroelectricity could be used by developing countries, most have opted for oil. "The question then arises as to whether the industrialized countries, by overconsuming world oil supplies, have already deprived the developing nations of their fair share", he said.

He blamed world media for not contributing constructively towards informing the public of the true situation. "The salient features of energy should be stressed as a whole, with special reference to the relative scarcity of oil; the urgent need to limit its use to sectors where existing technology limits the use of an alternative, and the necessity to accelerate the efficiency of oil use even in these sectors", he said.

Unless we put these proposals into practice, the world must prepare to face "recurrent events similar to those that came about in the course of 1979, but with increasingly severe consequences with each repetition." Referring to events in Iran he said that "the elements of erratic behaviour and unpredictable actions in this world have, over the last few years, proliferated to such an extent as to render the prevailing problems possibly insoluble. These elements pose such a grave problem that they could probably jeopardize the structure of the world energy trade."

He said that protectionist moves could be dangerous and the Community would try to provide countervailing arguments. "The Community still has more to lose than to gain from generalized protection and we have to find an alternative solution to industrial adjustment," he said.

"I am surprised, not to say disappointed, that as we enter a new round of international textile negotiations we face demands from the industry for an even longer period of more stringent protection; whereas the terms of the existing agreement, and a cursory review of international industrial development would have convinced most people, five years ago, that this would not be a tenable position today."

Wealth would only be created if management inspired trust in the workforce. Sir Hector Laing, chairman of United Biscuits said. If fear of redundancy could not be allayed there would be huge resistance to the technological changes which British industry would have to make if it were to survive.

As well as increasing security and encouraging employees to take a financial stake in their company, Sir Hector advocated positive steps in breaking down divisions between wage and salary earners. The aim would be to introduce a single status in industry.

"If we are to reap full benefit from the wealth-creating potential of new technologies we will need to formulate and put into practice human relations policies which are as revolutionary as the technology," he said.

He stressed the importance of leadership, and urged the selection and appointment of managers for character and personality as well as for technical ability.

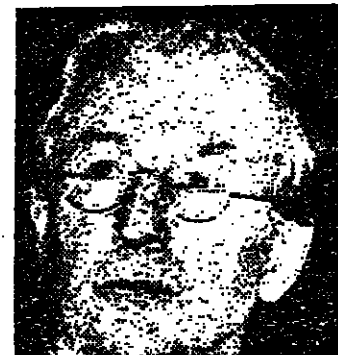
"Junior managers in industry have too often been inadequately trained and, what is worse, too often by-passed by more senior management going over their heads to union representatives, and using the union communication channel in a vain attempt to get a management message to the shop floor."



Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani



Viscount Davidson



Sir Hector Laing

Pictures by John Manning

Tight economic policies harmful, survey says

From Alan McGregor
Geneva, March 25

A warning that the expected economic slowdown may be sharper and more protracted than foreseen if governments stick to generalized and persistently restrictive policies is given in the annual survey by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).

Describing the latest round of oil price increases as "the most important single factor in the faltering climate and worsening expectations", the survey says the experience of 1974-75 provided a lesson in the harmful effects of stop-go policies on inflation and growth.

It emphasizes how slim has

been the success recorded by most west European economies in their anti-inflation measures, "though the cost paid in terms of employment, output and productivity growth has been high."

An average growth rate of 1.9 per cent is forecast for the 13 industrialized countries covered by the survey. The only buoyant markets are likely to be in the oil-exporting countries which will again probably accrue to the larger west European economies as well as Switzerland, the United States, and Japan. Japan has substantially improved its price competitiveness.

The survey says the pattern of inflation will depend a great deal on wages rates and how oil prices rise. It puts the

average consumer price inflation in western Europe this year at about 10 per cent, compared with 7.7 per cent in 1979.

The EEC economists underline that the pattern of international inflation represents something new in the post-war period, namely widely and persistently diverging national rates of inflation.

They see the ensuing exchange rate adjustments as an important link in this inflationary process and state that much of present economic policy efforts consist of bringing about a convergence of these rates.

The legacy of inflation in various countries will be hard to shed in a world exposed to successive inflationary impulses, the survey says. While the world economy has become

progressively more integrated, international economic cooperation has not kept step with this development.

The survey also emphasizes that the latest oil price increases may have disruptive effects on the international monetary system. It argues that, although recycling the surplus of the Organization of Oil Exporting Countries (Opec) has functioned fairly well since 1973, it will become much more difficult to place increases in those revenues so that the alternative of keeping the oil in the ground is not more profitable for producers.

Private financial circuits may not be robust enough to handle a new wave of petrodollars and international coordination seems urgently needed.

UK urged to hold lead in Prestel and teletext

By Kenneth Owen
Technology Editor

Britain must not allow its lead in viewdata and teletext technology to be eroded, Mr David Mitchell, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Industry, said last night.

In a speech prepared for delivery at a preview of the Viewdata '80 conference at Wembley Conference Centre, Mr Mitchell said: "In the use and application of Prestel and teletext we are leading the world; however we must not be complacent. Our margin is narrow—one or two years at the most."

"Government, industry, the Post Office, BBC and ITV must all do their utmost to ensure that we maximize our own commercial benefit from this invention and that we do not, as has happened with some other inventions, allow our lead to be eroded and for others to profit from our innovation."

Prestel is the Post Office's viewdata service which enables pages of information to be called up via the telephone network and displayed on a television screen. Teletext is the generic name for the broadcast services—the BBC's Ceefax and ITV's Oracle—which similarly provide pages of information on the television screen.

Mr Mitchell announced that the Department of Industry was developing an experimental internal viewdata system which would have access also to the external Prestel service.

"The system will comprise up to 30 to 40 terminals accessing specially designed databases containing information of particular departmental interest," Mr Mitchell said. "A number of large United Kingdom companies have already shown considerable interest in this internal system which, we hope, will give a stimulus to the use of viewdata in the business environment."

On the related technology of teletext Mr Mitchell said: "We are the only country with a fully operational national broadcast teletext system. Over 200,000 people are now using teletext as a regular feature of their lives and this number is increasing day by day."

"We are already on the way to a new generation of enhanced teletext which will bring the information era into the homes of millions of ordinary citizens. Many countries have decided to join us in exploring the full potential of enhanced teletext."

Prestel was "a British technological first" of great benefit to domestic and business users alike, Mr Mitchell said, and those benefits were already coming through in many areas. Prestel had already stimulated a wide range of research and development work on viewdata systems generally.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Profits 'distorted by inflation'

From Mr R. T. Taylor

Sir, The Clearing Banks and certain bodies have reported extremely good profits for the past accounting period. In making their reports they say that the figures are distorted by inflation and high interest rates. Obviously they are embarrassed by their high profits but is distortion by inflation a point which needs making?

Very few of us escape the

effects of inflation but, except possibly in wage negotiations, nobody refers to distortion by inflation. Everything is distorted by inflation in one way or another. By using such a meaningless phrase?

Yours faithfully,
R. T. TAYLOR,
11 Edgaston Walk,
Leeds 17,
Yorkshire LS17 7ND.

Value of import controls

From Mr D. P. Cornibear

Sir, Alan Clark is to be congratulated on his well reasoned exposition of the case for protectionism (March 7). It is hoped that he has succeeded in reviving interest in this currently unfashionable strategy.

What one finds hard to accept is the inevitability which economists attribute to the continuing decline of British industry and of the United Kingdom share of world trade. We should cease to sit through our economic and political history for the causes of the decline which we have undoubtedly suffered and instead take measures to reverse it.

In the short term this means restoring economic growth, improving the balance of payments, reducing the PSBR, increasing business confidence, and fostering better industrial relations. In my opinion the United Kingdom economy is not strong enough to achieve these objectives without statutory measures to restrict the volume of imports.

Future fiscal strategies have consistently proved to be unacceptable side-effects resulting in premature reversals of approach. Similarly, monetarism has been shown to be far more effective in a strong than in a weak economy.

The use of statutory import controls is that a major constraint within the economy can be held in check, thus allowing the freedom for the government to pursue policies which would otherwise have produced an unacceptable balance of payments deficit. It is for this reason that a period of import restraint might benefit the United Kingdom economy even in the unlikely case of significant reprisals by our trading partners.

Japan and France have both demonstrated that a successful economy is not necessarily achieved by avoiding unpopular actions. Both countries have

been prepared to give statutory support to a prevailing protectionist attitude.

Obviously, some methods of import restraint, such as non-selective tariff surcharges, are more likely than others to provoke retaliation. In this context there is scope within the VAT system to restrict imports of those products/industries which have suffered an excessive degree of import penetration, the rate of VAT input tax being increased to (say) 25 per cent, but only on goods brought in from abroad. At the same time VAT on imported goods should become payable in cash to HM Customs before the goods are released for sale, rather than the input tax being a book-keeping offset against output tax. (This demand for immediate payment by the importer already applies to many European countries and has the effect of an import deposit scheme.)

The importer who has suffered the surcharged rate of input tax would be permitted to charge only the standard rate of output tax and would consequently be obliged to raise his prices to cover the differential. It would not be difficult for the government to manipulate the surcharge rates to meet requirements. The effect of this policy would be to increase the revenue of the Exchequer with a once and for all timing benefit and a reduction in the price competitiveness of imported goods.

The increased Exchequer revenue could be passed on to industry in the form of a reduction in the rate of corporation tax. United Kingdom industry would be encouraged once more to build on a sound home market.

Yours faithfully,
D. P. CORNIBEAR,
248 Ojora Close,
Victoria Island,
Lagos,
March 13.

EEC bargaining counter

From Mr Andrew Stuttaford

Sir, It has been extremely interesting to read press reports over here portraying Mr Thatcher and her team as latter-day Oliver Twists fruitlessly wandering around Europe searching for a little gruel. Certainly it would seem that any plea based on fair play or a "just return" is unlikely to succeed. However, the hand currently holding out the begging bowl could soon be in a position to administer a sharp slap.

The ever increasing cost of the common agriculture policy means that the Community's "own resources" the money it receives "as of right" will prove insufficient by 1981/82.

If there is no increase in these own resources the EEC will be put in a very difficult financial position. The consent of all the member states is needed before the own resources can be increased. This requirement of unanimity could well give Mrs Thatcher the bargaining counter that she needs in dealing with our European partners and I think that it is fair to say that they will pay far more attention to this than to any appeal for fairness.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW STUTTAFFORD,
Institut d'Etudes Europeennes,
Avenue F-D Roosevelt 39,
1050 Brussels,
Belgium,
March 13.

Fast reactors

From Mr C. W. Blumfield

Sir, In Business Diary of March 14 there were comments about nuclear power and the fast reactor. It appears that the fast reactor is being given a reputation it does not deserve. First, it does not produce immense amounts of plutonium. In fact existing types of nuclear power stations produce more plutonium per unit of electricity generated than will fast reactors.

Second, fast reactors can be adjusted from year to year to cover the range of production between the limited amount of plutonium in excess of that burnt and no plutonium production at all. In this respect they have the virtue of being

able to control plutonium stocks far beyond the capability of present day reactors.

Incidentally, the Secretary of State for Energy who is responsible for the nuclear research programme used our dinner plans to visit Douvres. All the owners of the other VIP fleet mentioned made their own arrangements to get here.

C. W. BLUMFIELD,
Director,
Dounreay Nuclear Power Development Establishment,
United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority,
Dounreay,
Thurso, Caithness,
Scotland,
March 21.

Satisfied owner of a British car

From Miss M. Roseanne O'Reilly

Sir, During 1970 an aunt of mine died leaving me £1,000 to do something that I really would enjoy. I added £10 and the £1,000 and bought a brand new red MGB-GT.

Last night the mileage clock returned to nothing—100,000 miles having been covered. During the 31 YEARS I have had the car I have never had a puncture, a new clutch or a new gear box; in fact, apart from one night on the Hogs Back when my alternator failed, I

have had no other breakdown. Running on four-star petrol I average 29 or 30 miles per gallon, but when I could get four-star I averaged 32 mpg or more. Should I ever want to be able to afford another car it will certainly be British and I hope that every person who works in British Leyland will read this letter.

ROSEANNE O'REILLY,
The Old Nursery,
Stockton House,
Warminster,
Wiltshire,
March 17.

Lack of a national energy policy

From Mr William Morris

Sir, Since 1973 Britain, we are led to believe, has become increasingly energy conscious. Regular exhortations from the nationalized industries to "Save it" and the increasing costs of heating home and factory, with the rising costs of travelling between them, cannot fail to emphasize energy awareness.

However, while recently researching into Britain's current energy policy, I discovered that the Government does not seem to share the same awareness. Following the problems I encountered in finding any printed material on the Government's energy policy, my tutor advised me to telephone the Department of Energy where I spoke to a very helpful senior official in the Energy Policy Division of the Department of Energy.

His answers to my questions were perhaps more revealing than intended. I asked first whether the Government actually had an overall energy strategy. There was an embarrassed pause and then he replied "No". A little surprised, I asked whether a policy was being prepared—would we see a Green or White Paper soon? After an even more pregnant pause, the "boffin" admitted: "I am not sure but I don't think so. The Government has been in office ten months and a policy has 'emerged'."

"Is the Government's energy policy simply an extension of its monetarist philosophy?" I asked and now a little more confidently he replied: "Yes—the Government places great reliance upon the workings of the price mechanisms within the economy."

Professor Friedman on the budget

From Mr G. J. S. Sir, In the TV Friedman with casualty appraisals of the economic situation of the Government, the budget made clear that man's previous considerably in consultations.

The British part at least, interested in F. Friedman's views. In fact, he espoused a view to have some policy Budget when we were in the market.

Was it there if not with the Chancellor taking part in before the Budget cannot be the center of having that represent "throughout the" it must interest in the market to find and why such was planned as up to the brink of the end of the year of the Budget. GEORGE IVAN, Gloucestershire.

Tobacco on price

From Dr A. C. Sir, In today's (March 20) you

proportionately a small price in the tobacco market. Can there be for the price of being included in the index tax on tobacco would be so low as to make it a highly inflationary effect on it. Yours faithfully, A. C. CATTAN, Halesowen, 3 Hale Gardens, Milton, Hampshire, BH

Tax on revenues

From Mrs Elin Sir, I would like

on Mr Fitz (March 18) to be able to windfall revenues. Regrettably, he imposed his first victim on the tax.

I recall that Car was first were assiduous. install this is convenient for only to discover erment has to raise the cost of the 30 end of 1980, cheapness count fuels.

I wonder what await us. ELIZABETH K 96 Westfields A Barnes, London, SW13.

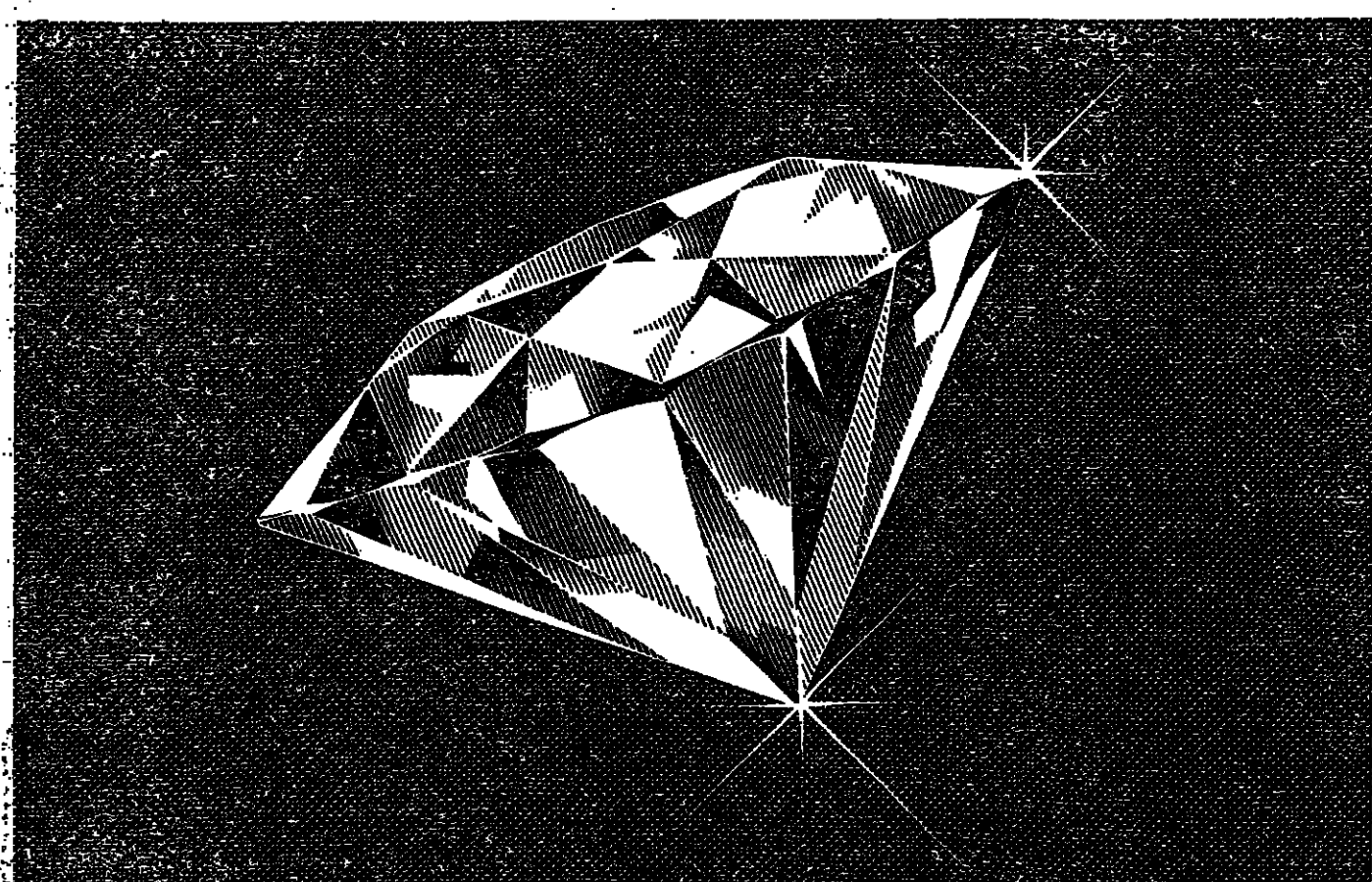
Mobility workfor

From Mrs Ursu Sir, In some

planning appears as a matter of actually much of time, that in this count British workfor mobile than the western democracies. It is a matter of how many requirements.

On the Europe, and to in the United people live in radiation, largely, sector, and it is easy for them to where their character might be country however, seems to be a section of the country, sends difficulties, reasons, and might find that property in other country are so that a move is a tion.

I know no subject, but I was a farmer would consider tethering which has already been discussed. URSULA BOWLE 49 Knightsbridge, Adersfield, Hemel Hempstead, Herts.



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AMALGAMATED DIAMOND BROKERS LIMITED

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Lasmo's Ninian build-up

ers in Lasmo are not yet reaping its of their venture into the high-1 of independent oil exploration: the looks of the 1979 results they e long in coming. The figures are her better than those forecast last , at the time of the bid for Oil m, with 1978s £10.73m loss (on a le basis) transformed into a profit above the line, and a change in d of calculating petroleum revenue cut the charge by £3.5m) helping e a net surplus of £8.65m.

moment this is just being applied g the accumulated deficit on share- ounds (now down to £17.61m), but an's output still rising, and contri- row Hewett and Bates oil in the he Oil Ex acquisition, this year will effit wiped out and dividend pay- gun.

s of the Oil Production Stock which sed in 1976 as a sweetener to its nt unsecured loan stock issue, are e benefitting from the Ninian already: after an 11.82p net pay- out at the interim stage, they are eceive another 30.98p per unit net l.

s position has effectively been ed over the past year—and not nancial position, though thanks to ayment, borrowings were down to t the end of December, despite ending of £30.5m during the year.

important in the short-term: but ificant in the long run is the fact o has, with the acquisition of Oil on, secured itself a future after ne-out. The success of the drilling ne—in the North Sea, the Philip- d Sharjah—is likely to be more t for the shares (off 3p to 440p on ong yesterday) than the dividend ; but the immediate prospect of a return will not do them any harm.

& Law

end S

or not noted for dramatic gestures, Law caused a ripple of excitement when it pushed up its dividend er cent at the gross level. That set the market wondering about similarly generous dividend ill emerge from the Life Assurance Prudential and Legal & General, y publish results today.

t. Equity & Law's dividend is d by earnings up from 8.6p to share; it is able to do this by oun unappropriated surplus cash, obviously a once-off exercise which y feels justified in doing given the dividend restraint and the fact that little point in retaining substantial ile funds.

has implications for dividends u. few years. They should continue longside the pattern of controlled hich Equity & Law can foresee but earnings now have to catch up. short-term it could help the shares, ding nearly 8 per cent with the 38p and thus about 1½ points above r average. A share, then, that a good way into a sector which de the recession with equanimity more than can be said for many I stocks.

& Colman

ry in

1 America

f all the usual troubles now gnaw- at United Kingdom manufacturing lity—high interest rates, sterling's and slack demand—Reckitt's has been hit by particular diffi- a its North American operations, combination of the two pushed pre-

tax profits down from £61.3m to £51m last year.

North American profits slumped from £7.8m to only £1.4m chiefly due to excess capacity in potato processing with the performance of the mainstream food retailing side good apart from last year's Morton acquisition.

Elsewhere in North America the Sunset leisure division made up its first half set-back although heavy losses in a part of Winsor & Newton offset this. But Reckitt has shown a welcome ability to chop out the loss-makers and profits should recover sharply in 1980.

The other problem area was Brazil where price controls and inflation halved profits to £2m. Otherwise it was largely a matter of swings and roundabouts geographically. But for a group earning four-fifths of its profits overseas, Reckitt has been buffeted by the strength of sterling with squeezed export margins trimming £11m from profits and the conversion of overseas profits another £7m with strong showings in Australia and New Zealand in local currency terms virtually disappearing.

After exchange movements on current assets of £7m and £5.2m of closure costs in North America, retentions slumped from £21.1m to a shade under £5m, and the cash outflow—with a £48m capital spending programme—rose £111m to £73m. The £26m rise in borrowings pushed interest charges up from £4.8m to £8.5m although the still strong balance sheet with gearing only up from 29 to 37 per cent does not point to any immediate need for its first ever rights issue, especially with the way working capital has been kept under control.

Faced with another cash outflow this year, the tighter financial position over the last couple of years must have been a factor behind Reckitt's decision to scale down its pharmaceutical ambitions, and it is now not planning to move more deeply into the ethical market.

Selling on eight times fully taxed earnings, which are unlikely to show underlying growth of much more than a tenth this year, and yielding 7.1 per cent at 172p, with the dividend also growing more slowly after last year's exceptional 41 per cent in the gross to 12.1p only just covered by current cost earnings, the shares have well and truly lost their glamour rating as the Beecham of the 1980s and are likely to move in line with sterling where only a small decline would put the group back on its growth tack.

United Newspapers

Still trading strongly

Recessionary fears and talk of a fall in overall advertising revenues of as much as 5 per cent this year has cast a shadow over the newspaper industry and provincial groups (who rely heavily on job advertising) in particular after three years of burgeoning profits.

But whether or not United Newspapers' 19 per cent profits jump to £8.2m for the full-year represents the peak of a cycle, the group is not pessimistic.

A 54 per cent increase in total net dividends to a level still 2.6 times covered, the promise of a one-for-one scrip, and news that results so far this year are well ahead of last, were enough for the market to lift the shares 12p to 405p.

Advertising revenues advanced 24 per cent last year with volume rising 10 per cent and United claims that so far at least there have been no signs of a significant fall off.

The shares now yield of 8.5 per cent and are on fully-taxed p/e ratio of around 7 and look solid enough with the only real doubts centring on the long-term challenge from local radio and other incursions into newspapers' traditional markets. Bolstered by cash of £5.7m—almost £1 a share—the group should be able to keep profits around the £8m mark this year unless there is a really dramatic shakeout in advertising or the current dispute with the National Graphical Association digs in.

Data bank legislation in foreign countries could hurt UK industry. Rory Johnston reports

Do computers really threaten our privacy?

We are used to the idea of national frontiers being barriers to the passage of people and goods, but traditionally information has flowed across them unhindered, at least in the non-communist world. There are signs that this is about to change.

International companies, in particular, are worried that their communications, and hence their ability to do business, will be severely hampered as restrictions are imposed by various countries on what is becoming known as "transborder data flow".

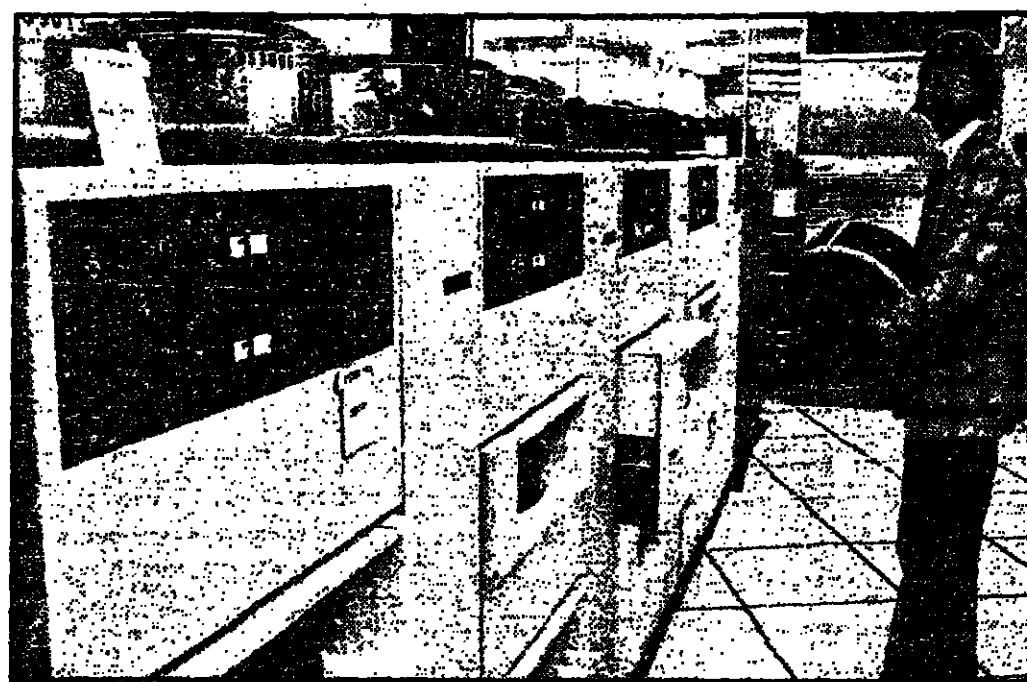
Concern over personal privacy is the reason cited most often by governments for controlling transborder data flow. Laws are being imposed in several countries on the operation of computer data banks. In order to prevent evasion of controls these laws must include restrictions on the sending of data to other countries where there are no such laws—the so-called "data havens".

Britain is one of the latter, and British businessmen are becoming worried that foreign governments may cut off such vital flows of information from overseas subsidiaries and trading partners as personal files, payroll accounts, information on orders from private customers and address lists for mail order operations. This, it is feared, would bring much profitable activity to a halt.

What can we do? The answer, put forward by several pressure groups and trade associations, is that we should pass laws to control data banks. But would such legislation in fact effectively protect personal privacy?

It could be a colossal and expensive bureaucratic intrusion into the activities of both companies and individuals. It would be absurd for us to pass such legislation in fact, because other countries misguidedly thought them a good idea.

The argument over "data protection" has been going on for more than a decade. The "privacy lobby" claims that the accumulation of vast amounts of information about individuals is a threat to the privacy of those concerned, and that such information would enable governments and



A computer data bank: British businessmen are worried that foreign governments may cut off vital flows of information.

large corporations to infringe people's rights.

How exactly they would do this is not specified, but concern over the matter has been strong enough to induce several countries to bring in legislation. In West Germany, a data ombudsman has been appointed to oversee the implementation of the law, and in Sweden, the United States Privacy Study Commission were all unable to find any significant examples, despite years of investigation.

In instances quoted by others, it usually turns out that the computer is the real culprit, and that such wrongs as there are can be dealt with under existing laws.

At a conference of local authorities on the subject of data protection one computer manager said: "We are in danger of legislating against witchcraft."

The DPA would act as its own enforcement agency and would have powers to enter premises and bring prosecutions. But

does the notion of trying to control computer data by legislation make sense at all? A growing body of opinion both inside and outside the computer industry thinks not.

There is a shortage of hard evidence that computers are causing an invasion of privacy. The Lindop committee, the Younger committee before it, and the United States Privacy Study Commission were all unable to find any significant examples, despite years of investigation.

In instances quoted by others, it usually turns out that the computer is the real culprit, and that such wrongs as there are can be dealt with under existing laws.

Certainly much of the public's fear of computers stems from an exaggerated idea of what they can do. The notion of one huge nationwide data bank containing everyone's personal details is intriguing but

in reality not a practical proposition. The automatic correlation of data from different sources is much more difficult than people imagine.

Even if controls were necessary or desirable, they still could not achieve what they set out to do. At a computer industry lobby presentation to MPs at Westminster recently the data processing manager of a large international concern commented: "I use a computer network with access points in 26 countries including a public call box in Peru. How can any Data Protection Authority hope to find out what I am doing with my data, where?"

It is broadly agreed, even by Sir Norman Lindop, that any one who is determined to hide data in a computer system will succeed. As for cross-border controls, miniaturization and other technical developments are making data smuggling an easy proposition.

Even among supporters of the principle of data protection laws, there is serious doubt about the efficacy of the Lindop proposals. One speaker at the Westminster meeting was worried about how one could

tell which of the plethora of codes of practice one must abide by. Mr Ken Poole, chief executive of Leeds City Council and a member of the Lindop committee, has expressed serious reservations about the fact that the DPA would be yet another quango and that it was not at all clear how it would choose to exercise its power.

No two people define privacy in the same way, nor are two countries' definitions the same either. The laws which have been enacted vary widely in their provisions, and this is another reason why the free flow of information internationally could be restricted.

At present, three different international bodies, the Council of Europe, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and the EEC, are trying to work out how to harmonize different national laws.

Several countries are members of all three bodies, so which harmonization scheme should they follow? Who will harmonize the harmonizers? The OECD's efforts have fallen into disarray for the time being and the Council of Europe has no power other than persuasion but the EEC may eventually try to force data protection laws on its members.

The situation is further complicated by the fact that some governments are interested in cross-border data controls for reasons other than privacy—for instance, economic protection for its own data processing industry, or a desire to manipulate news and other information for political purposes.

What is Britain to do? Can we hope to persuade our neighbours that their well-meaning efforts are misguided? Or will the confusion simply continue until their errors become self-evident?

Certainly the Government shows no signs of backing out of this because it agrees with the opponents of legislation or simply has had more pressing things to think about is not clear. Perhaps this is just as well. For all the ramifications of these issues, it is not clear that Parliament could take a great deal of time.

The author is Public Affairs Editor of Computer Weekly.

Tony Emerson

Argentina's motor industry savaged by competition

Buenos Aires

In just over a year Argentina's motor industry has undergone major changes. General Motors and Citroen have ceased production. Chrysler and the small state-owned company, IFA, have sold out to Volkswagen.

Vehicle imports, effectively prohibited since 1961, were permitted again last year and importers have already captured 7.5 per cent of the domestic market.

From a record of 22 vehicle manufacturers in 1960 there now remain only four—Ford, Renault, Fiat/Peugeot and Volkswagen. Purely commercial vehicles are also made by Mercedes-Benz, Scania and Deutz. The big shakeout was foreshadowed by the decision of General Motors in late 1978 to cease production. The American car giant had seen its share of the Argentinian market dropping year by year.

Reaction to these events is varied. Supporters of Dr Martinez de Hoz, the economics minister, welcome them in the name of rationalization. Those who see Argentina's future as a power-house of heavy industry, they call themselves Desarrollistas (Developmentists)—attack the government for policies of deindustrialization and selling out to foreign interests.

Since 1964 more than four million motor vehicles have been built in Argentina. Last

year the figure was 233,000, putting the country in the same bracket as Belgium, Yugoslavia and East Germany. There are seven Argentine firms for each motor vehicle in the country, compared with a proportion of 3:1 in Britain.

The country has become increasingly dependent on motor vehicles for its general transport. Two vehicles in every seven are commercial ones (compared with one in eight in Britain), 80 per cent of foreign passengers travel by bus, and despite Argentina's cereal production, lorries carry seven times more goods than the railways.

In 1970 the Argentine car industry had sorted itself out behind protective barriers into ten finishing plants and rather more than a thousand suppliers and component manufacturers. In theory, the time had come to open the industry to competition, but in fact the most remarkable coup was staged by a group of component manufacturers.

Legislation in 1971 not only continued to prohibit car imports, but forbade the import of any component, unless the local component manufacturer had told the government that they could not produce it, and had no objection to the imports. The law limited the total value of imported components (which were subject to a heavy duty of 4 per cent of the value of the vehicle).

New models could not be

launched without a minimum number of the replaced model having been produced. This measure was supported by an important section of the army whose industrial empire, Fabricaciones Militares, had got control of much of the iron and steel industry and was producing steel (as it does today) with outdated technology at a price well above the international one.

By and large it is not in the Argentine nature to compete by price cutting and certain questionable means of discouraging such unArgentine behaviour succeeded in raising the profit margins of component manufacturers to anything between 200 and 800 per cent.

When Ford attempted to counter this great by buying the sole manufacturer, Transax, it became the victim of a propaganda campaign, in which the component manufacturers joined. Ford and Transax executives were then singled out by motorists in a wave of kidnapping and assassination. No other finishing plant thereafter tried to buy a component manufacturer.

It was also surprising that the instant fortunes of the

early 1970s were made by suppliers to the car industry, and that some of their former leading lights are living in exile with criminal charges pending against them.

By 1977 Argentine cars were costing more than twice the price of their foreign equivalents, their designs had been frozen to those of the sixties and, of the price which the purchaser paid, the finishing plant saw less than 20 per cent. In all fairness they were also tougher and more solid than equivalent models in the northern hemisphere.

When the liberalising team of Dr Martinez de Hoz took over the country's economic policy, a change in the law was inevitable. But vested interests, including military ones, delayed and modified the new legislation until a watered-down version was finally passed, in January, 1979.

Under this law new cars may be imported, but bear a 95 per cent duty on their price. This duty will be reduced to 55 per cent by 1982.

Lorries may be imported with a duty of 65 per cent, to be reduced to 45 per cent in 1982.

Plants may choose which components to import, but the maximum proportion in cars is 8 per cent, rising to 12 per cent in 1982, and to 15 per cent, rising to 25 per cent, in 1985.

Mild, not to say highly protectionist, though the legislation may seem, it has wonderfully concentrated the minds of the motor industry. Firms which do not have the confidence to modernize and compete are opting out of the race or switching (as in the case of Citroen) to the distribution and service of imported cars.

Those which have decided to go ahead under the new rule are taking advantage of a highly valued peso to reequip cheaply. Ford have announced plans to invest \$250m over five years; the newly merged Fiat/Peugeot will bring in over \$200m of equipment in a shorter period. Volkswagen is starting to build models from scratch and inevitably the Japanese have been first off the mark to organize sales and spares networks for their imported cars, thus fulfilling in part the fears of manufacturers that the new legislation would open the door to cheap Japanese and Brazilian vehicles.

Business Diary: Girl torque • Zimbabwe and IoD

t it, that the member- the United Kingdom n of Business and Pro- Women should have ch a dive since the y and Sex Discrimina- tional Act came in 2- equal Pay Act was 1970 and came into in 1975, the year that Discrimination Act w. Membership of the l, whose forty-first onference takes place ousness next month, out a 40-year high of 3,000 in 1968-1969 to 444 branches (1975) in 407 branches last lowest in three

ing to general secre- anor Young, however, ity legislation does not such hearing" on the

president, Audrey ells me: "We are self- vome. We have been to go rk, and now they have ousner women are too h jobs and with house- come to meetings." erner, a lecturer, adds federation how encour- establishment of per- rather than city-centre in clubs to make it r women to attend.

about time my opposit- on The Financial n the Men and Matters thought up a new and ogynistic title? When y those male chauvinist Bracken House d a merits of this e stockings it had to be worn by a man—a judge nomial costume.

Flora and Peter Rowe were among the small Rhodesian delegation at yesterday's annual convention of the Institute of Directors at the Royal Albert Hall.

Mrs Rowe, who owns a secretarial agency in Salisbury, is the secretary of the IoD's Central Africa branch. Peter Rowe is the local manager of the French airline UTA.

Today she will be at the IoD's headquarters in Pall Mall discussing how to strengthen the Salisbury-based IoD branch. "If ever there was a need for a voice for private enterprise it is going to be right now", she told me.

Membership, about 500 when UDI was declared, took a dive because of anti-British feeling but now, thanks to the efforts of Mrs Rowe and branch stalwarts, it is back roughly to its old level.

There are about 10 black members, and new applications,

● The trend towards more budgets looks like being followed by another towards more Chambers. The Confederation of British Industry, I hear, is to launch a competition in the women's magazine *Family Circle* to find a lady who would make a good Chancellor.

The winner will take home £1,000, a most useful contribution to any family budget. Details are to be printed in the October issue of the magazine, and the final will be held in London in March—just before the next Budget.

This is not a pre-Budget hint to Sir Geoffrey Howe to move over. Two of the new CBI directors are headed by women, Dorothy Drake (information) and Sonia Eddon (small firms),



Never on our knees: Rhodesian delegates Flora and Peter Rowe and IoD packed lunch in London yesterday.

from black and white, are coming in every week. Mrs Rowe is firm that blacks shall not be admitted for window dressing, but because they have jobs entitling them to membership.

● One man's meat... Whether or not Sir Geoffrey's Budget will be good for Tory digressions remains to be seen, but it has already stuck in the throat of former Tory MP Charles Simeons.

Simeons set up the two-day conference on Control of Toxic Substances and proposed United States/EEC legislation thereon, which started in London today. He had the wheeze of suggesting that companies sending people along should take a chunky M.F. with them.

In the event, ICI, Hoechst, La Porte, and I&M were among those who agreed—but now, Simeons says, only one parliamentarian, the Tory Michael Grylls, will be there. He is going as the guest of Hoechst.

● For a man who makes his money knocking things down, Sir Edmund Spence is a lot of time building up the demolition industry.

He is executive editor of the industry magazine *Demolition and Dismantling*, vice-president of the National Federation of Demolition Contractors, honorary secretary of the Institute of Demolition Engineers, managing director of Southern Demolition and the industry's "Man of the Year".

Recently he has been out on demolition sites not knocking things down but directing a film about the industry. This will replace a documentary, filmed by Yorkshire Television in the early 1970s, called *Bring the House Down*.

Up-dating is needed he says, because of changes in health and safety legislation, which, for example, have introduced controls on working with asbestos and lead paint.

Hunt says that it is hard work improving the reputation of the industry, because of the many "cowboy" companies working outside the self-policing federation.

The Department of Employment saying that to save money no more notices of industrial tribunal hearings will be despatched. The announcement adds that only a third of the cases listed actually get as far as a hearing anyway. One wonders, therefore, whether the tribunal system itself could stand some pruning. The lists are to go, but is this not a case of chopping off the leaves rather than the branches?

Ross Davies

Fairview Estates Limited

INTERIM STATEMENT

6 MONTHS ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1979

Unaudited Results	6 Months to 31 Dec 79	6 Months to 31 Dec 78
Turnover	£200	2000
	15,402	12,219
PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION	4,801	2,338
Taxation	(380)	(234)
Profit After Taxation	4,441	2,104
Interim Dividend	255	295
Net Amount per share	8.3p	2.75p
EARNINGS PER SHARE	41.3p	15.5p

A profit for the six months to the 31st December 1979 of £4,801m was earned. No Industrial property was sold during this period. One housing site sale took place but this did not contribute significantly to the profits.

An interim dividend of 3.3p net will be paid on the 9th May to shareholders registered on the 24th April 1980, an increase of 20%. The Company's contracted Rent Roll now stands at £2,870m. This does not include several rent reviews upon which the due date has passed but the revised rentals are still to be agreed. When agreement is reached the contracted Rent Roll will be well over £3m.

The Company has several substantial lettings under negotiation and is making good progress with the development programme of sites in hand. The outlook in this division is most satisfactory with strictly controlled exposure, essential in today's uncertain climate. House sales during the six months to December 1979 were buoyant with improved margins maintained. However, as anticipated, the market is now more difficult with increased building costs again eroding profit margins to a degree.

The borrowing level is currently being reduced and the Company's Balance Sheet will be stronger still at the year end, 30th June 1980. Shareholders should be aware that the present high level of profit represents part of the stated policy to quickly reduce housing land stocks, generate cash to reduce borrowing and thus enable further progress to be made in the transition from pure house-builder to property investment/development company. It is not intended to maintain this rate of earning growth, bearing in mind the resolve to reduce the Company's present level of housing activities.

D. J. COPE, Chairman
25th March 1980.

Confidential to work place only

Fairview

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Gilts boosted by last-minute buyers

The last day of waiting before Sir Geoffrey Howe's second Budget kept the stock markets quiet. Equities firmed gradually during the day after opening easier following Wall Street's 9 point fall overnight.

Gilts also managed to hold steady at the former levels of the previous night encouraged by rumours and hopes that the Budget package would contain some strong investment incentives.

There was some activity in certain equity sectors, including insurance, following the announcement that Marsh and McLennan's bid for C. T. Bowring, which gained 10p to 143p, would be referred to the Monopolies Commission.

A crop of results started yesterday with Equity and Law Life Assurance's dividend boost, 4 up at 198p, also helped the sector, particularly the brokers. Oils once again proved to be among the liveliest stocks with the prospect of a fourth bid for Viking Oil and Lasso's figures, which were about £1m higher than expected.

Properties also received a pre-Budget boost in the almost certain belief that stamp duty would be reduced to 1 per cent with an additional fillip from the less certain possibility that capital gains tax will be reduced.

But dealers were emphatic that today's measures, nicknamed the "wait and see" Budget, will shift the market 15 points in either direction despite the absence of any large numbers of speculative buyers in this three week account.

The FT Index, which saw its lowest point in the first hour of trading when it went down 1.9 to 425.3, started to climb after lunch and closed up 3.1 at 430.3.

Gilts, which saw some buyers coming in at the last minute before the Budget, ended the day with long up to £1 better although most were £1 improved and shorts, which reported a dull day, with occasional £1/16 falls after hours, also finished about £1 up.

Among the leading industrial stocks, Becton proved to be one which provided the most business, but by the close the

Fast growing English Association of American Bond and Share Holders saw profits jump from £77,000 to £218,000 in the first half and is now firmly on course for at least £500,000 pre-tax for the year to June against £381,000 last time.

Share price had lost 2p to 117p. Glaxo finished at 246p, 2p lower. ICI was among the few to add a couple of pence and ended the day at 370p.

Fisons dropped 5p to 264p while Unilever lost 1p to 415p. Courtaulds and BAT Industries were unchanged at 69p and 231p respectively, as was Pilkington at 213p. Rank gained 3p to 169p.

News that Berkeley Exploration, the recently launched offshoot of KCA International, had negotiated a farm-in with Shell on Block 28/5A pushed the share price up 6p to 113p while Shell itself lost 2p to 336p.

BP and Ultramar were among those which gained as fears that the Chancellor would impose stringent windfall profit taxes and increase petroleum revenue

tax have somewhat dissipated and even discounted by investors. BP closed at 336p, up after lunch and closed up 3.1 at 430.3. The high flyer of the last

account, Seibens, lost 10p early in the day but finished at 550p. Viking Oil, which was suspended during the day 10p up at 1090p, awaited its fourth bid in as many weeks and dealers believe that the price could eventually go as high as £14 a share.

Among the other oil stocks, Tri central was unchanged at 278p after last week's profits and Lasso after its announcement, saw profit takers move in and closed at 440p, down 3p.

Other companies which reported figures included Brent Chemicals which called for a rights issue with its full-year figures and added 4p to 226p. Rediff and Colman's disappointing results, because of its North American problems and the strength of sterling, saw the share price fall 2p to 172p while among the stores, Stag Furniture gained 4p to 192p with good profits. Bamber's Stores, which also produced good profits, 47 per cent up, lost 4p to 93p.

United Newspapers' figures boosted the share price 12p to 405p. Speculation in Amalgamated Power continued with a further boost of 7p to 82p but J. Sainsbury took a 7p knock to 293p after a brokers' circular stressed increased competition.

The continuing ups and downs of bullion, which fell £25 to \$340.5 yesterday, combined with the South African budget, pushed gold shares down almost without exception. West Driefontein dropped \$2½ to \$67, F. S. Geduld followed suit losing \$3 to \$50½ while Middle Wits fell 9p to 410p.

Among the London financials, Rio Tinto-Zinc held on to finish unchanged at 353p but Consolidated Gold Fields lost 4p to

491p. Rustenburg, following the trend in metals prices, was 230p, down 4p.

In the Australian, there was a general lack of interest after the losses built up during the last account and most of the stocks were down on the day. Woodside dropped 3p to 93p. Otter dipped 4p to 66p and Samantha finished 2p lower at 70p. MIM Holdings saw an even sharper fall of 8p to 205p and Western Mining closed 6p down at 194p.

The insurance sector was busier with results due today from Prudential unchanged at

This account should see the final drilling report of the Seibens Marathon test bore in the North Sea. The recent renewed strength in the share price suggests that the results should prove substantial oil and gas finds. The share price remained steady at 530p yesterday.

169p, and Legal and General up 1p to 162p. Guardian Royal Exchange added 10p to 136p but Commercial Union slipped 1p to 127p. General Accident gained 2p to 225p and Sun Alliance dipped 2p to 534p.

Of the brokers, C. E. Heath gained 2p to 208p and Willis Faber lost 2p to 246p.

Properties hardened slightly with a few large buyers in the hope that the Budget would provide capital gains tax concessions which dealers believe will lead to a rash of takeovers. By the end of the day there were few sellers. EPM was unchanged at 191p with Peachey and Haslemere showing no price movement at 128p and 292p respectively. Land Securities gained 1p to 291p.

Renewed suggestions that Sime Darby will offer a £10 a share bid for Guthrie boosted the price 3p to 840p, but London and Sumatra lost 10p to 385p and Killineyhall dipped 5p to 515p, as did field 13p to 490p after its results and Harrison Malay, with interim figures out today, went down 3p to 167p.

Equity turnover for March 24 was \$4.41m (number of bargains 13,986). The most active stocks, according to Exchange Telegraph, were BP, C. T. Bowring, Shell, BAT Industries, Becton, and Courtaulds.

Wardle directors resign after takeover

Two directors of plastics group Bernard Wardle, who have been on the board at least seven years, have suddenly resigned.

A terse statement issued to the Stock Exchange yesterday said their resignations followed the success of the takeover bid from Mr Graham Ferguson Lacey's company, Ferguson Investments.

It was announced last Friday that Mr Lacey's new company had received 58.5 per cent acceptance for his 33p a share offer and with shares already owned he controlled 88.4 per cent of Wardle.

One of the directors, Mr Eric Dodson is a senior partner of the Manchester-based firm of Addiscombe, Sons & Latham, solicitors to Bernard Wardle.

The other is Mr John McLaren Morris, also chairman and managing director of London-based public relations group Leeder.

Neither was available for comment last night. Remained in the company, Wardle declined to comment yesterday but said they hoped to make a statement "within 24 hours".

That should follow the board meeting due to be held today when it is widely expected Mr Lacey will carry through his plan to install himself and fellow Ferguson Investment owner, 73-year-old Mr Cecil McBride, on the Wardle board. Mr Lacey will also replace current chairman Mr Ronald Egan.

Meanwhile there was an emergency meeting of shop stewards of Wardle's threatened Everflex factory in Caernarvon, last night. Mr Lacey met them last Friday afternoon and said that a statement was likely to be issued on Wardle's decision to close the factory with the loss of 332 local jobs.

Options

The last day before the changes, which the options dealers hope will herald the tax changes to allow options to be treated as investments rather than assets, saw a total of 353 contracts compared with Monday's 243.

London Securities topped the list with 86 contracts, with P close behind with 80. Shell traded 72.

A quiet day was reported in traditional options, although a put was announced in Davy International.

Calls were produced in James Neil & Co. Hotels, Capetown International, Uthrie and House of Fraser.

Viking Oil shares suspended again

Shares of Viking Oil were suspended yesterday amid rumours of another bid from one of its already long list of suitors.

However, Mr Kurt Van Vian-dren, of Pennsylvania-based Sun Co Inc, admitted that his company was still conducting negotiations with Viking but until Viking made a statement Sun would be unable to comment. He was also unaware of any talks being conducted with either of Sun's two main competitors, Hunt International Petroleum and Deminex of West Germany.

A spokesman for Viking Oil refused to comment on the issue but said that the shares, quoted under rule 163(3), were likely to remain suspended until late this afternoon or Thursday morning, at which point a statement would be issued.

The shares were suspended at 1090p, a rise of 10p on the day, which compares with 740p

before the original agreed bid of £3 a share plus royalty payments from Deminex.

Yesterday speculation was rife over the suspension, the second this month, with some predicting a bid price of £12 cash a share. However, none were prepared to say who was making the bid.

The attraction of Viking lies in its stakes in the Brue and Tiffney fields, which have already registered finds. Others are still in prospect. This has led one broker to estimate the group's assets at between 400p and £23 a share.

The first bid for Viking by Deminex in February was quickly followed by another from the Sun Co. This was valued at £4 a share plus an unspecified royalty payment.

Three days later Hunt International Petroleum entered the third bidder with £4.50p a share and a royalty payment that valued Viking at £10.8m.

Profits jump of 47pc at Stag Furniture

By Peter Wilson-Smith
A full year's contribution from Meredew Furniture helped to push profits of Stag Furniture up by 47 per cent to £335,000 at the end of 1979. Assets per ordinary share were 230p.

The strong cash position will stand Stag in good stead in 1980, which promises to be a much more difficult year.

Reduced consumer spending has led to much tougher competition in the furniture market and there is no sign of this easing in the short-term.

After rising by 42 per cent to £29.5m in 1979, sales in the first two months of the current year are only 13 per cent higher. But overall the group is maintaining volume with the expensive furniture holding up well.

The shares yield 7.4 per cent and the p/e ratio on a nominal full tax charge is 4.9. On the actual 17 per cent tax charge this falls to only 2.2.

Bemrose results tumble

Bemrose Corporation, the Derby-based printing, packaging and publishing group more than halved profits last year. The dividend is raised 4 per cent.

In the year to the end of December, profits fell from £2.4m to £1.1m on a turnover of £46.4m. After charging £525,000 for re-

organizing the carton and cylinder engraving business, the group had to dip into reserves to the tune of £136,000 to pay a final gross dividend of 3.18p, giving a total of 6.37p, against 6.10p last time.

High interest rates, the strong pound and disappearing performances by the book, print, and publishing, are blamed for the earnings fall.

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Earnings halved Spirax

By Our Financial

Financial control Spirax-Sarco has crossed profits by an amount up to 1979.

Profits rose to £6.6m, though retained profits show a fall from £3m to £1.5m.

This was due to extraordinary items of £91,000, against time. The figure of an £800,000 dividend charge, by cost of reorganizing operations and a sale of finished

This total £14 deduction leaves £91,000. In addition, the figures were a tax charge in the £1m down from the £1.5m and overseas in £906,000.

Mr Anthony chairman says that current price is ahead of last year's, there will again the company's business as long as trading does not further. The how the figures are final dividend is a total of 3.3p, last year. The 5p up 2p yesterday, per cent. Share are down 19p.

Denki looks to Europe

Denki Kasei (Denka), a Japanese chemical company, is planning to raise £5.7m worth of debentures in the UK to raise funds for investment.

Officials of the largest manufacturer of synthetic rubber, which is based in Japan, will be in London next week to discuss the issue.

The flotation by a syndicate including the N Company (Euro Schroder, Warr, Barmine, de Par, Bas and Amster Bank NV.

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Reckitt & Colman 1979

Unaudited Preliminary Results

Sales £659.08m
Profit before tax £51.01m
Earnings per share 22.55 p

Comments on Results. In common with most international manufacturing companies, Reckitt & Colman has experienced a difficult trading year and has had problems particular to itself. These problems are being dealt with in a vigorous manner.

It is encouraging that, with the exception of North America and Brazil and of exports from the U.K., the group's performance around the world has generally been of a high order and is not adequately reflected by the figures as they appear in sterling, due to the strength of that currency.

During 1979, the group spent £47.8m on capital projects and acquisitions, designed to preserve and further develop the geographical and product spread of Reckitt & Colman.

The U.K. trading divisions were hit by the transport drivers' strike at the beginning of the year but recovered and made excellent progress in the second half of the year.

In Europe, while sales increased satisfactorily, profit before tax was similar to that of 1978.

The really significant drop in profit was in North America but in the second half of 1979, improvement occurred there. Trading difficulties have, however, continued in certain activities in North America and it has been decided to close some of these. Provision has been made in extraordinary items in the 1979 accounts for the related closure costs.

Trading for Reckitt & Colman Australia began slowly in the first half-year, but gained momentum as the year progressed, ending up on a strong note. In local currency terms, sales increased by 14.2%, pre-tax profit by 13.0% and earnings by 16.3%.

Against a fairly depressed economic background, Reckitt & Colman in New Zealand again performed very strongly.

In Latin America the Brazilian companies were adversely affected by strong inflation. In Argentina the company substantially increased its sales and preserved profit margins. Trading in Venezuela was difficult while in Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru the businesses performed well.

In most parts of Africa trading proved difficult due to continued restrictions on imports and the strength of sterling coupled with the weakness of local currencies. Despite these problems, the business in South Africa made satisfactory progress.

	1979 £ million	1978 £ million
Sales to customers	659.08	606.64
Trading profit	59.54	66.07
Interest payable less other income	8.53	4.77
Profit before Tax	51.01	61.30
Tax on profit (Note 1)	19.78	23.46
Profit after tax	31.23	37.84
Attributable to minority interests	3.36	3.56
Preference dividends	27.87	34.28
	0.16	0.16
Earnings attributable to ordinary shareholders	27.71	34.12
Exchange differences	7.14	4.08
	20.57	30.04
Extraordinary items (Note 2)	5.22	1.70
Profit attributable to ordinary shareholders	15.35	28.34
Ordinary dividends	10.49	7.26
Added to reserves	4.86	21.08
Earnings per share (Note 3)	22.55p	27.84p

Note 1: Tax, including deferred tax only in respect of liabilities which are expected to arise in the foreseeable future consists of—
UK advance corporation tax 4.56 3.66
Other UK taxes, less relief for overseas tax 0.51 1.11
Overseas tax 14.71 18.69
19.78 23.46

Note 2: Extraordinary items in 1979 consist of provisions for losses on closure of sites and businesses, less related tax relief of £3.09m.

Note 3: Earnings per share are based upon the average shares in issue during 1978 and 1979 and on earnings attributable to ordinary shareholders as stated above.

Ordinary Dividends. A final dividend of 5p per share (1978 - 3.326 p) is recommended to be paid on 2nd July 1980. With the interim paid in January 1980 this would make a total of 8.5p (1978 - 5.926p).

Annual Report. Copies of the annual report will be posted to shareholders on 29th April 1980.

The Annual General Meeting. This will be held on Thursday 22nd May at 10.15 a.m. for 11 a.m. at The Connaught Rooms, 15 Great Queen Street, London WC2.

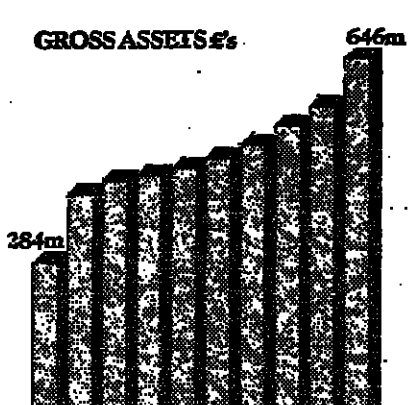
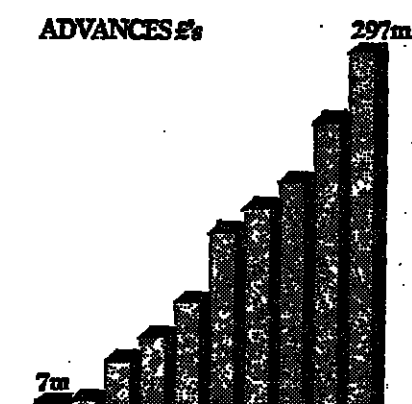
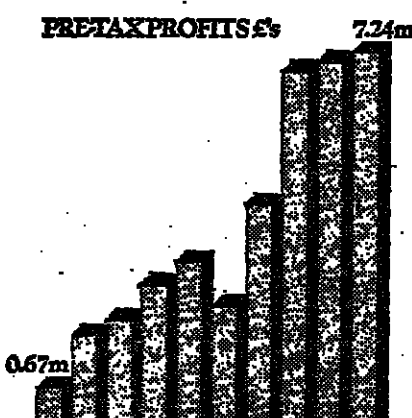
A presentation will be made at the meeting of the company's Latin American business.

Reckitt & Colman

P.O. Box 26, Burlington Lane, London W4 2RW

Principal product groups: food and wine, household and toiletry, pharmaceutical, industrial, leisure.

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J.M.E. Padavan, Chief Executive



J.A.S.L. Leighton-Boyce, Chairman



C.N. Villiers, Deputy Chief Executive

Highlights for 1979

- * Further profits advance to £7.2 million.
- * Record corporate advisory activity—in issues, mergers and acquisitions.
- * Currency and sterling advances up 18% £297 million.
- * Responsibility for investment funds of over £14 billion.
- * Management and co-management of 13 eurobond issues with a value of over \$750 million equivalent.
- * Representative office opened in New York.

We can be confident that the strength of the Bank, which has been steadily developed in the past ten years, will enable us to take full advantage of our consistently expanding connections in commerce and industry, both in the United Kingdom and overseas.

John Leighton-Boyce, Chairman

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ANCIAL NEWS

Members ahead after high second half

Wilson-Smith

The cost of opening new stores will be evident in the year-end balance sheet, which will show considerably higher borrowings. Banners spent £4m net on new retail stores, and working capital requirements will have risen, too.

The higher level of debt has already worked through to interest charges which were more than six times higher at £947,000 in 1979-80.

Banners is continuing to hold down prices and so far margins have not suffered. The group will also be adding to its 178 retail outlets in 1980-81 and new stores are likely to provide most of the growth in a tough first half. But with the seasonally stronger second half providing the bulk of profits, the outcome for 1980-81 is hard to judge at this stage.

The year's gross dividend has been raised by 77 per cent and at 25p—down 4p on the figures at 22p—yields 3.1 per cent. The p/e ratio on a notional full tax charge and excluding the exceptional profits on property sales is 13.9. A one-for-two scrip issue is planned.

Session blamed for return at Garton

Aubrey Garton

Engineering, the manufacturing sector, saw profits fall last year to £990,000. The company, however, has been heavily squeezed. The pressure on margins was aggravated by competition from imports, especially in the mass market for bolts, the traditional core of Garton's business which still accounts for about 40 per cent of turnover. Another factor was that disruptions to customers' business effectively caused a delay in Garton's price increases.

A final dividend of 5p gross brings the year's full payout to shareholders to 9.5p gross, the same as last year.

Merim rise of 10pc at Ricardo

Based Ricardo Con-Engineers is still pushing profits higher, after topped the £1m mark first time in 1978-79. Six months to December, pre-tax profits rose by 10 per cent to £551,000 before charge, compared with £500,000 last year. Revenue rose by 15 per cent to £1,320,000. Shareholders benefit, interim dividend rises 3.92p to 4.28p gross. Downs, the chairman, says the company is experiencing a lull from its worldwide. But Cussons' of business has been "disappointing", resulting in this subsidiary making a loss for the half-year. But as been taken and this, with the continued of the parent, gives a good reason for the rise.

for-one scrip radin Rbr

Higher profits and is, Beradin Rubber is proposing a four-for-one scrip issue. Turnover up from £1,282,000, pre-tax increased from £341,000 to £500,000 in the year to 30. Profits are after an additional profit of £30,000, with all for 1977-78. Earnings per share up 20p to 6.02p, the total d. gross, is being raised 38p to 5.42p.

half-time loss n Sinclair Hldgs

ough the turnover of Sinclair Holdings rose 10.37m to £12.75m in the year to December, the group expanded to £538,000, with a loss of 0.1 last year, after a nil (same); last year's was also after charging extraordinary debit of £1.5m. The results of Dickinson, Brown and for the first time. The

International

Sohio net income up by 163 pc

From Frank Vogl Washington, March 25

Standard Oil of Ohio (Sohio), whose majority shareholder is BP, stressed today that its key long-term financial objectives are a strong credit rating of at least "double A" a minimum return on borrowed and invested capital that exceeds expected inflation rates by a reasonable amount of at least 6 to 8 per cent and a dividend payment of 35 to 40 per cent of income.

The company noted in its annual report that in the 1970s its assets grew sixfold to \$9,209m. Its ownership stake in the Prudhoe Bay field in Alaska gives it greater crude oil reserves than any other company in the United States.

Sohio expects Prudhoe Bay production, now at 1.5m barrels a day, to be sustained at this high level for about six years.

In 1979 Sohio increased its revenues by 52 per cent to \$7,916m, its net income rose by 163 per cent to \$1,186.1m, its long-term debt fell by 17 per cent to \$3,086.4m and its cash dividends per common stock rose 47 per cent to \$1.22.

Phillips expects higher earnings

Phillips Petroleum expects higher earnings in 1980 despite a probable decline in profits from its petroleum products group, according to its annual report.

Phillips had earnings in 1979 of \$819m (£372m), or \$5.77 a share, up from \$718.1m, or \$4.66 a share, in 1978, while earnings of its petroleum products group rose to \$206m from \$45m.

Phillips said it expects lower petroleum products group earnings because crude oil costs are expected to rise faster than prices for refined oil.

Bridon sells stake in Haggie

Bridon, the British cable and wire maker, has sold its 38.8 per cent stake in the South African associate company Haggie for \$57m (£31.7m). The purchasers are Scaw Metals, a wholly owned subsidiary of the giant Anglo American Corporation, and Union Corporation.

In 1978 Bridon made pre-tax profits of £17.1m, but in the first half of the last financial year lost £1.52m. The company

says that it is selling the Haggie stake because the return on investment has been small and more profitable use can be made of the funds elsewhere. The dividend from Haggie in 1979 was £1.36m.

Haggie is a major supplier of steel cables to the South African mining industry. Last year it made profits of £28m on assets of £70.1m. In recent years Haggie has also moved

into export markets, particularly in other parts of Africa and in Latin America. The move can also be seen as another step in the strengthening by South African interests of their hold over domestic industry. It is significant that the stake is to be divided between Anglo American, often regarded as representing English language business in the republic, and Union Corporation, which after its recent incorporation into General Mining could be considered part of the Afrikaner camp.

Bid for Australian Finance

Associates Corporation of North America says it will make a joint \$11.5m (about £5m) takeover offer with the Melbourne-based insurance group, T and G Mutual Life Society, a finance company, Australian Finance and Securities.

The offer is conditional on approval from the Government's foreign investment review board and upon receipt

of 90 per cent acceptance by shareholders. The joint offer is of \$120 cash for each of the eight million fully paid 50 cent shares cum dividend in AFS and 95 cents for each of the million partly paid 50 cent shares.

Associates Corporation noted that the AFS board has said it will recommend the offer be accepted.

CP to acquire food group

Canadian Pacific Investments, of Montreal, and Norin Corporation, of Miami, Florida, has announced that it has reached an agreement in principle under which Canadian Pacific and its wholly-owned United States subsidiary, Canellus, of Syracuse, will acquire through a cash merger all of the outstanding common shares of Norin at a price of \$32 a share.

The aggregate price of the Norin common shares is about \$76m (about £34m). The agreement is subject to any necessary governmental approvals, a formal agreement, and the approval of Norin's shareholders at a shareholders' meeting expected to be held by early summer.

Norin is a diversified food company engaged in the manufacture, processing and distribution of a variety of food and agricultural products in North America and the Caribbean.

Bass hotels still expanding

Crest Hotels, the hotel arm of Bass, the brewery group, is still in an expansion mood and will be announcing the purchase of another hotel in Europe shortly. The impending deal was disclosed by Mr Richard Beer, managing director, at the start of a Dutch Week at the Group's hotel at the Wembley Complex—possibly an echo of the £16.7m deal last year which made it the biggest hotel group in Holland.

Crest is now the third largest United Kingdom-based hotel company, Mr Beer said, with 30 on the Continent and 54 in the United Kingdom.

No Arbed dividend

The steel company Arbed announced sharply reduced losses for 1979 of 218m Luxembourg francs, compared with 1,919m francs in 1978 and 4,500m in 1977.

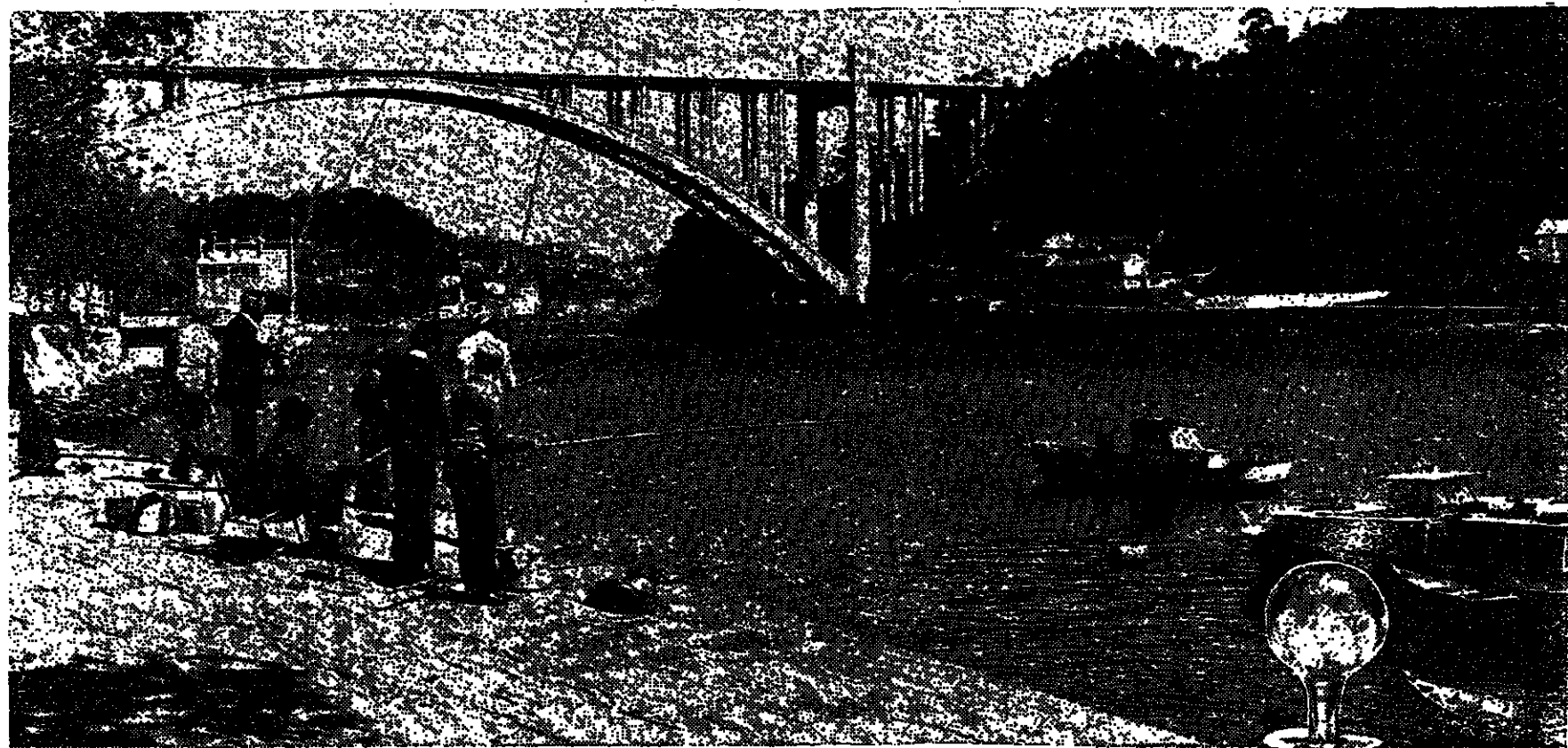
Despite the "encouraging improvement", Arbed said, the losses of the past several years and the financial cost of modernizing facilities led the directors to decide against recommending a dividend payment.

Matsushita Electric

Net income of Matsushita Electric Works of Japan was 18bn yen for the year ended November 30, 1979. This compares with 13.9bn in the previous year.

Sales amounted to 451.2bn yen against 12bn yen.

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The Annual General Meeting was held at 120 Cheapside, London EC2, on Tuesday, 25 March, 1980 at 3.00 p.m.

The following is a summary of the Report by the Directors for the year ended 30 November, 1979.

	1979	1978	%Change
Total Revenue	£1,312,973	£994,806	+32.0%
Revenue after taxation and expenses	£ 736,222	£471,218	+56.2%
Earnings per Ordinary Share (see below)	6.95p	4.78p	+45.4%
Ordinary dividends for the year net per share	6.60p	4.60p	+43.5%
Net asset value per 25p Ordinary Share	177p	185.2p	-4.0%

The earnings per ordinary share reflect non-recurring income from the Company's holdings in Shell Transport & Trading Limited and Unilever Limited as a result of the removal of dividend restraint, amounting to £12,049 net. As the Directors considered that the benefit of this income should be passed on directly to the shareholders at the earliest opportunity, a special interim dividend of 1.00p per share has been declared on the Ordinary Capital, absorbing £104,680, and is included in the dividends per share above.

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from the Secretaries.
J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. Limited, 48 St. Martin's Lane, London WC2N 4EL

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
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MUSIC COLLEGE, W. seeks
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International Financial Company based in luxurious offices in Sloane Square requires. Personal Assistant combining the duties of a secretary, an executive Secretary. Salary according to ability and experience. Apply to

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PUBLIC NOTICES

I, Mr Vasanthi Menonchi, son of C. G. Menonchi, whose permanent address in India is Pokhrani Post, Sakhoti, Calicut, and now residing at 15, Shering Road, London W9, hereby give notice for my intention to change my name to Susha Menonchi, subject to the approval of The High Commission of India, London.

DECLARATION OF DIVIDENDS

THE
DARBY

**University of London
King's College**

Applications are invited for a
part-time

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SECRETARIAL
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to the General Office at King's

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FULL-TIME SECRETARY
required for Academic Department of Anaesthesia. Job involves normal secretarial duties, including preparation, organization of courses/meetings and typing of manuscripts for scientific publication. Salary £14,543.90 (inclusive). Annual leave 30 days plus public holidays and statutory duties.

Please send the Personnel Officer on 01-274 6222 ext 274.

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This magazine's advertisement Department needs a bright young Secretary preferably with some business experience. Short-hand good typists, an aptitude for figures, and a pleasant personality are necessary. **New offices in the West End.** References and resumes please send to: **Cosmopolitan, Inc.** Please ring **Beverly Flower on 534-0558**

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LEGAL NOTICES

Re: GEORGE COULTER LIMITED
(In Voluntary Liquidation) and
the Camperica Act, 1938.
Notice is hereby given that the
CREDITORS of the above named
Company are required to send in
Friday and May, 1939, to the
Liquidator, at the above address,
and particulars of their Debts or Claims
to the undersigned, in accordance
with the provisions of the Act.
By Richard Phillips and Co.,
Liquidators.

and Company and as required by the provisions of the Liquidator Act, the Liquidator is to come in and prove their said debts or claims at any time or place as shall be notified in such notice or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of the provisions of the Act before such debts are proved, and this I stated this 15th day of March, 1980.

IAN PETER PHILLIPS, F.C.A.,
LIQUIDATOR (PROBATE ACCOUNTANT)

Re: KENNEDY PARTNERS "STATIONERS" LIMITED (in voluntary liquidation); and the Companies Act, 1948.

Notice is hereby given that the CREDITORS of the above named company are to send to the undersigned Bernard Phillips F.C.A. on or before 28th April 1980 to send their names and addresses and particulars of their claims.

Witness my hand and seal this 11th day of April 1980.

Undersigned Bernard Phillips F.C.A. Secretary

DOMESTIC AND CATERING SITUATIONS

COOK STEWARDESS/ STEWARD

required for company 12th

[illegible]

CANADIAN PACIFIC LIMITED
(Incorporated in Canada)
Notice to Shareholders
The Ninety-third Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of this Company for the election of directors and to take the place of retiring directors and for the transaction of business generally will be held at the Auditorium, 700, Adelaide Street West, Toronto, Ontario, on Wednesday, May 13, 1953, at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. on 355 077.

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at eleven a.m. (daylight savings time, if possible).

Members of shares and stock will be closed at the close of business on Tuesday, May 1, 1980. All shares will be reopened on Thursday, the 8th day of May, 1980.

The Board of Directors has decided that the time before which a shareholder is attending a shareholders' meeting is 14 days before the meeting.

LAURENCE GARDEN - Small Vegetables, Garden, Greenhouses in Hertfordshire, England.

Office of the Vice-President and
Secretary at Montreal, Que. shall
be here as usual, saving those
(to operate) Monday, May 6th,
1980.

By order of the Board,
J. C. ASHES, Vice-President and
Secretary, Montreal, March
10th, 1980.

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PASTORAL MEASURE 1968

The Church Commissioners have agreed to draft a scheme providing for declaring redundant the church of All Saints, Waldergrave, and to sell the church and its contents. The draft scheme may be obtained from any of the churches mentioned above, and any representations should be sent within 28 days of the publication of this notice to the Registrar of the Diocese.

Notice is hereby given that Miss
Moria Churchill of Tadmor, Wis.
Marion R. Churchill is applying to
the Home Service for naturalization
and that any person who has
information as to why naturalization
should not be granted should send
the name and address of the person
to the United States Secretary of
the Home Service, 1700 Broadway,
New York, N. Y.

20.4m NDRs issued 20.4m March,
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-Managerial-Administrative-

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La creme de la creme

also on page 30



-Managerial-Administrative-Secretarial-Personal Assistants-

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Secretary-Mining Engineers, EC4.

£5,000 neg.

An opportunity to work at executive level on a wide range of duties including office administration and arranging hotel and air bookings. Good secretarial skills required. Four weeks' holiday plus other attractive benefits.

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required with good education and secretarial skills. The successful applicant will have broad experience and will be required to work from the chairman's private residence in S.W.7.

Please write with details of education and experience to Box 0774 F, The Times.

All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.

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Use your previous advertising experience + good secretarial skills to assist Senior Director responsible for all client liaison and advertising recruitment. Great variety and involvement in a very successful agency.

BERKELEY APPOINTMENTS, 161 NEW BOND STREET, LONDON, W1. TEL 01-492 0444 (Recruitment Consultants)

TRI-LINGUAL

French, German £7,000

P.A. IN P.R. £6,000

Opportunity to use your P.A./Sec. abilities and be totally involved.

BANKING £6,000

+3% mortgage Work at chairman level as social and business P.A.

J.F. CONSULTANTS

01-493 6212

P.A. £5,500

Secretary in Kensington for M.D. of Audio Visual company. Good typing and shorthand a necessity. Also ability to communicate with clients.

Phone 01-937 5028.

ARCHITECTS W.I.

Require bright and efficient Secretary with shorthand to organise small friendly office and deal with telephone reception. Worthwhile salary.

Tel. 01-287 8277

SECRETARY

Bond St.

Estate Agents (and Surveyors) require experienced audio secretary, preferably with shorthand, to join lively modern and friendly office.

Salary £5,000 p.a.

Molynaux Rose

499 9851

PA SEC.

£5,600 + PERKS

Senior secretary with an extensive personality is required for this demanding position. Lots of job involvement, personal admin. organisation. A young go-ahead company.

Bennet Hamilton Employment Bureau 01-406 8851

EXPERIENCED MEDICAL SECRETARY

required for busy private medical practice for 3 consultants in central London hospital. Appropriate salary negotiable.

01-388 3834

British Gas are seeking to appoint the following experienced personnel for their Secretarial Departments in London.

SECRETARIAL ASSISTANT

Marble Arch

up to £6,887

To assist in the organisation and administration of the industry's most senior committees. The work involves regular contact with senior staff Directors and their secretaries. A high level of efficiency and accuracy is required and the work is highly confidential.

You should have a good general education with 'O' levels including English and have completed a recognised course in shorthand and typing. The experience required is at least 3 years in a responsible secretarial post, and some experience of committee administration would be an advantage. Salary within the range £5,990-£6,887 inclusive of £751 Inner London Weighting. Ref: PER/201201/T. Please write with full details of age, qualifications, experience and current salary quoting the appropriate reference, to the Senior Personnel Officer (London), British Gas, 38 Bryanston Street, London W1A 2AZ. Closing date for applications 9 April, 1980.

Both vacancies, open to men and women, offer all the benefits normally associated with a large progressive organisation.

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Holborn

up to £8,143

To take responsibility for the Secretaryship of a group of national Committees and associated Working Parties, serving British Gas Finance Division. This will involve preparation of agendas, reports, briefing notes, minutes and administrative arrangements for meetings. The position demands the ability to analyse and marshal facts, prepare accurate reports and minutes and to maintain good personal working relationships at all levels.

We are seeking applicants with a degree or equivalent qualification who can offer some sound experience in a similar field.

Salary is in the range of £7,179-£8,143, inclusive of £751 Inner London Weighting. Ref: CH/20701/T.

BRITISH GAS

Margery Hurst Centre

Career Consultants

47 Davies Street, W.1.

01-629 8812

MHC

Arts Council of Great Britain

Office/Showroom Manager

£5,500 neg. W.1.

A famous French manufacturing company requires a person, completely bilingual in French, to run its large London showroom. Absolute integrity and a good commercial sense of paramount importance. Good benefits given.

Senior Secretary/P.A.

£6,000, W.1.

The Marketing Director of an international chemical company requires a more P.A. than a secretary, although excellent shorthand a necessary asset. The position demands a position with plenty of scope for initiative. Excellent benefits given.

TOO BUSY TO LOOK FOR A BETTER JOB?

We know that it's just not possible for many senior secretaries to come in to see us during the working day but tomorrow, Thursday 27th March, we're staying open until 7 in the evening. Either ring us about our wide range of satisfying jobs in London or look in on your way home tomorrow for a drink and a chat about the opportunities, fringe benefits and promotion prospects.

SENIOR SECRETARIES

Recruitment Consultants

173 New Bond Street, W.1.

01-499 0092 01-493 5907

NEW HORIZONS

46 BROMPTON ROAD, KINGSBRIDGE, S.W.3. TEL 01-584 4223

There is room at the top for intelligent, well groomed and capable secretaries, 25+, used to working at executive level.

W.1. P.A./Secretary to chairman, Entertainment Ind. £6,250

S.W.1. P.A./Sec. to dir of admin National Federation. £6,000

S.W.1. P.A./Sec. to managing director, Telecommunications. £6,500

S.W.3. Private secretary to president, Agricultural Group. £6,000

W.1. P.A./Secretary to director, Marketing and P.R. £6,500

We also have many other interesting and well paid posts.

HARLEY STREET

Secretary required for Consultant based in Harley Street.

Applicants must have good shorthand (at least 100 wpm) and excellent secretarial skills, medical experience an advantage. 5 days per week. 4 weeks' holiday. Age 23+. Salary £5,000 negotiable. Tel:

Dr Beauchamp

935 9963 or 935 3088

AUDIO SECRETARY

£5,400

This International Accountancy Practice offers a varied and interesting position as Secretary to an Audit Division Partner. Frequent offices, attractive fringe benefits.

Blue Arrow Staff Services, 50 Bedford Street, London, W.C2. 01-373 7444

circa £6,000

Experienced Accounts, Audio and Shorthand Secretary needed by busy young firm of Chartered Accountants near Shaftesbury.

Salary circa £6,000 plus clothes allowance.

Telephone Cheryl Penn

486 8984

£5,500-£6,000 P.A./ADMIN. -CITY

Two of our clients have asked us to recruit experienced Personal Secretaries for Senior Directors.

Both appointments offer opportunities to contribute to company activities at a very high level.

Although good secretarial skills are necessary, the ability to take responsibility and to deputise frequently is just as valuable.

To discuss details and other benefits, please call

01-730 8525

RELANCE

EXECUTIVE CONSULTANTS

FRENCH BI-LINGUAL SECRETARY £6,000

Applicants need to have French mother tongue and able to take shorthand in English and French. Will be working for a Manager of a leading International Press Agency. Very involved position that needs someone who can work on their own initiative. Excellent working conditions and 5 weeks holidays.

For an appointment phone

Chris Peterson 353 3232

ALFRED MARKS

A BETTER WAY TO WORK

THE STANDING CONFERENCE ON SCHOOLS' SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1 Bedford Way, W.1.

Administrative Secretary

£5,000 p.a. Neg.

Applications are invited from secretaries with administrative experience for the above post in this national Educational organisation. The successful candidate will provide a confidential service to the Secretary of the Society, and will work closely with him in its day to day administration, organising conferences and publications, and arranging and taking minutes of meetings.

Applicants should be mature (25-35), efficient and well-educated and possess secretarial and organising skills of a good standard.

Please apply in writing with CV to The Secretary. For further details please ring.

Miss McDermott on 222 7899.

MANAGING DIRECTOR OF LEADING W1 PUBLISHING CO.

Requires experienced P.A./Secretary who will also be responsible for all matters relating to personnel. Publishing experience preferred but not essential. Salary negotiable. Please contact

Vastiana Belfont, 01-434 1694, extn. 45.

SECRETARY

Commercial partner in young and expanding firm of solicitors in pleasant Lincoln Inn Fields offices. seeks mature, hardworking personal secretary, wanting a permanent position with responsibility, variety and job satisfaction. Generous salary offered to the right person.

Please ring 01-242 3389 (ref RC)

SECRETARY/PA

Required, well spoken mid-aged Secretary, some knowledge accounting for very interesting work. Sloane Street. Salary £5,000. Previous Secretary stayed 30 years.

Tel. 235 1453

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TELEPHONE SALES TRAINER

c. £8,500+

(NEGOTIABLE PACKAGE)

The Classified Advertising Department of the London Evening News represents innovative leadership in Classified Development. In the last 13 months we have launched 2 'World Firsts'.

As a result of internal promotion (really) we are urgently looking for a young, aggressive, and bright Sales Trainer, who wants to move faster than their environment currently allows.

Find out more and make a sales pitch to Chris King, Executive Sales Manager, Evening News Classified, at

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Elizabeth Hu

PA TO THE PRESIDENT

£6,000

Apply to: Elizabeth Hu, Secretary for Knightbridge Party. Social confidence to deal with VIPs essential.

ADMIN. ASSISTANT

City company seeks a Personal Administrative Assistant. Duties include the organisation of company and attending management conferences. Ready shorthand too.

WI ESTATE AGENTS

These Agents require a secretary to the senior partner. The role is the importance of this top job.

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£6,000

Young PA/Secretary to assist in all aspects of running office. Duties include the organisation of company and attending management conferences. Ready shorthand too.

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PA/Personnel Officer for W.1. exhibition organisation. Junior secretarial staff and be responsible for setting up and seminars.

Elizabeth Hu Recruitment Consultancy

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RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT

